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Food prices push living costs up 2% in a month

BY WILLIAM KEEGAN, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

The biggest monthly increase in food prices since June, 1955, contributed to a sharp jump of 2 per cent. in the U.K. cost of living between September and October.

Announcing a 3.6-point rise in the *retail-price index* during the last month of Stage Two of the counter-inflationary policy (to 185.4—January 1962=100) the Government cited a host of special factors, including world commodity prices and seasonal influences.

At the same time Mr. Joseph Godber, Minister of Agricultre, warned *last* night that there were further major food price increases to come.

The official figures show that the cost of living rose by 9.9 per cent. during the year which embraced Stage One and Stage Two of the prices and incomes policy. Moreover in recent months the pace of inflation has accelerated.

While the 24 *per cent. per* annum rate of inflation implied by the latest month's figures no doubt overstates the pace of price increases, the index which measures the price of everything except seasonal food has shown a marked acceleration since the *summer*.

During the past six months this index has risen at an annual rate of 10.5 per cent. compared with 10.1 per cent. in the six months to September, 9.1 per cent. *in the period* to August, and 8.4 per cent. in January-July.

The October index is particularly significant in that it is the base month for cost of living threshold agreements made under Stage Three.

Under the terms of the White Paper, employees with threshold agreements will be entitled to up to 40p a week extra for every percentage point by which the increase in retail prices exceeds 7 per cent. during the 12 months from October this year.

Since the White Paper was drafted, the assumption of a rapid improvement in the commodity price *outlook* has gone awry, and the Government has already been faced with militant *industrial action on the* wages front.

Negotiations

If prices continue to rise at anything like the recent rate of increase, threshold agreements *will come into operation* well before the Government originally expected.

So far very few unions have arranged threshold agreements, but many are in the throes of negotiation. The miners want a threshold agreement and the National Coal Board is willing to grant one.

Apart from food some of the main price increases last month included rents, household coal and coke, petrol and clothing. *Of these, the coal and coke* increases were said to be due to seasonal *factors*.

There have been many indications recently of further large price increases which have yet to work their way into the retail index. Output prices rose fast in September and October. Basic material prices have continued to shoot up. The main effects *of the recent increase of 40 per* cent. in oil prices has yet to be felt.

Peter Bullen writes: The food price index actually rose by 3.3 per cent. last month. Two main contributory factors were a steep 7.3 per cent. rise in the cost of seasonal foods—notably tomatoes up by an average 7p a pound and eggs up by 4p a dozen. The *secondary effects of* dearer grain prices added an extra ½p on a loaf, 4p a pound on pork, 2p a

Continued on back page
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Oil crisis deepens despite Nixon's ray of optimism

BY ADRIAN HAMILTON

WHILE remarks by President Nixon yesterday raised hopes briefly that the Arab producers might be considering easing their oil boycotts, Esso in the U.K. took the first step towards *allocation of deliveries*. The company warned all customers that it would not be able to supply their full requirements because of the Middle East situation.

Esso is the second biggest oil marketing group in Britain and *its letter to customers, which* does not specify the date or amount of any allocation is something of a *preliminary* move to protect its legal position in the event of allocation.

It is a clear indication, however, of the pressure now being *felt by the industry* and the urgency with which they view supply prospects this winter.

Other companies have prepared similar letters but are awaiting a Government instruction before sending them out. This is widely expected to be forthcoming next week, possibly on Monday.

Mr. Nixon's reported optimism on the oil outlook, which caused a flurry on Wall Street and also affected the London market, emerged during a ceremony in which he signed a Bill giving the go-ahead to construction of the long-delayed Trans-Alaska pipeline.

In impromptu remarks to the press, he said that it was "because of the progress we have made in the *Middle East*, and because of the possibility, and it is just a possibility, that we can see at some time in the future some change in the Arab oil producing countries and their attitude about exporting oil to the U.S. and Europe, which affects us indirectly because of the residuals that Europe sends us.

"Even if it begins to-morrow," he emphasised, looking at the U.S. position, "we would still have an energy crisis this year."

While Mr. Nixon's hint gave no firm indication of progress, there are now reports in diplomatic circles in Washington that the first meeting to discuss how to work towards a permanent Middle East settlement may be held as early as next *month*.

The meeting would be held around the middle of the second week in December, probably in Geneva, and apart from the combatants themselves, only the United Nations Secretary-General would be present.

No confirmation was forthcoming from either London or Washington that Arab producers were planning to relax their use of the oil weapon. Mr. Nixon's *remarks were quickly followed by a statement* from Mr. Rogers Morton, U.S. Interior Secretary, expressing *doubt that the Arab* oil embargo would be lifted before the end of the year.

There remain, indeed, mixed views among the U.S. and European Governments about the determination of the oil producers to continue squeezing the West's supply of oil.

Signs have emerged in the last few days that some producers, at *least, having gone to a* 25 per cent. cut in production, are beginning to have second thoughts about increasing pressure.

There have also been a number of rumours that the Arab states may be considering lifting the Dutch embargo—although this would not necessarily reduce the total volume of cuts.

On the other hand, recent statements from the producers, particularly Saudi Arabia, have emphasised their determination to continue the cuts until a full settlement is reached on the lines of UN resolution 242.

Reports of Dr. Kissinger's *recent visit to the Arab capitals* also suggest that he received little joy from his efforts to persuade producers to ease their oil cuts.

Next week is likely to be particularly critical on the oil scene. The OECD oil committee, which includes representatives from the U.S., Japan and European states, is due to meet in Paris in the middle of next week to consider a possible oil sharing arrangement.

At the end of the week, Foreign Ministers of the Arab countries *are due to meet in Algiers to* discuss developments in the Middle East, and to consider *what further measures are* needed.

The major oil consuming countries are now beginning to take firm steps to cope with short-falls of as much as 25 per cent. in their oil imports.

West Germany has now joined Holland, Belgium and Denmark in banning Sunday driving, while Japan has produced a package of *severe measure to reduce industrial* production by 10 per cent.

Cutback in Japan, Back Page
Other oil news, Page 12

R-R holders may get over 40p

BY NICHOLAS OWEN

INVESTORS *in the old Rolls*-Royce company may now receive just over 40p for each share, at least 10p more than estimates made by Mr. Rupert Nicholson, the receiver, five months ago.

The latest figure was given yesterday in a statement by the receiver and joint liquidator of the position as at October 6.

Creditors of the company, which collapsed two-and-a-half years ago, are being repaid in full. The total amount available for stockholders is currently £26.9m., or 40.9p per share. Some £10m. of the total will be paid to investors in America, where there was large-scale buying of *shares around the time of the* failure.

Claims totalling £132.5m. have been agreed and payments of £129.4m. made. *However, there* is another £10.4m. worth of unsettled damage claims "and it is probable that litigation will be required in a number of cases where important points of principle remain in dispute," the statement said.

An allowance of £6m. has been made to cover these claims—and *this amount could be exceeded,* stockholders are warned, resulting in a reduction of the amount available to repay them.

A first payment to stockholders will be made during the first three months of next year. Stockholders who have mislaid their certificates are again advised to get in touch with the Rolls registrar.

It was originally expected that *creditors would get only half* their money back, and shareholders nothing, as in most *liquidation situations*. But under almost all headings, the receiver has obtained more than expected for assets sold. The Government agreed in the summer to pay £87.5m. for Rolls' aero engine interests, and £37.2m. net was raised from the public flotation *of Rolls-Royce Motors*.

As far as more cash-raising is concerned, the statement said that still outstanding is a claim against Turbo-Union in respect of the RB-199 engine project. Still to be disposed of are various properties, including land with *development potential*; a 50 *per* cent. interest in Bristol Aerojet; and 15 per cent. of Short Brothers and Harland.

London faces rail chaos on Monday

By John Wyles, Labour Reporter

MAIN LINE and suburban rail services into three London stations will be badly hit on Monday when more than 1,000 train drivers are expected to defy *union instructions* and stage a one-day stoppage.

It appeared last night that the instruction to work normally on Monday, issued yesterday by the national executive of the Associated Society *of* Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, had come too late to reverse the strike decision.

Services into and out *of* Waterloo, King's Cross and Liverpool Street are likely to be *crippled by the unofficial stoppage*. Southern region were advising commuters not to try to travel into Waterloo on Monday unless they were prepared for long delays and cancellations.

Inter-city

Suburban services into Liverpool Street will be cut by 20 per cent. while 44 of the 118 inter-city trains linking Liverpool Street and Kings Cross with Scotland, the North-East, the West Riding and Humberside will be cancelled. Only 15 per cent. of Kings Cross suburban services are expected to run.

The stoppages are in protest at alleged delays in reaching agreement on a modernised pay structure for railwaymen. Top-level talks on a £50m. deal proposed by British Rail have been scheduled for November 30.

Mr. Ray Buckton, the ASLEF general secretary, said yesterday that the union's executive had ordered *normal working* "in the light of" talks having been arranged and because of the need for unity among ASLEF members.

ASLEF leaders may clash again with members at the union's Kings Cross, Waterloo and Stratford branches who are threatening to follow up Monday's strike with further stoppages. Mr. *Buckton said the union would* only "have another look" at strike calls after the November 30 pay talks when ASLEF would be pressing for an increase in BR's offer of pay rises worth up to £3.85 a week.

NOTICE TO READERS

In order to conserve newsprint the Financial Times is reducing the number of copies available for casual sale at selling points throughout the country.

If you do not already have a regular order with your newsagent, you are urged to place one as soon as possible to ensure that you get your copy *of the* Financial Times.

Air holidays dearer from December 1

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

FUEL SUPPLY difficulties and price rises are now biting deeply *into the air travel market*.

Holidays by air out of the U.K. will cost more from December 1 —for some short holidays as much as 20 per cent. more—as nine U.K. airlines in the inclusive-tour market put on surcharges of between £3 and £8 per holiday, according to destination, to meet rising fuel bills.

In a separate move on scheduled international long-haul routes, the first major cuts in *flights* have been agreed between British Airways, Pan American Airways and Trans World Air*lines, affecting London-Boston*-Philadelphia, with further talks next week on cuts on the London-New York-Washington routes.

Announcing the air holiday surcharges in London yesterday, Mr. Freddie Laker, chairman of Laker Airways, said they were essential to meet fuel bills which had more than doubled since the end of September, *going up from about* 7p-8p a gallon to 18p a gallon. The latest increase, of about 8p in Spain, came only yesterday morning.

Unless recouped, these rises would cost the nine airlines—BEA Airtours, Britannia, British Caledonian, Cambrian, Court *Line*, Dan-Air, Laker, Northeast and Monarch—more than £6m. this winter representing an average *loss of £3 per seat on* the 2m. seats on offer. The maximum loss might be as much as £10m.

The surcharges were thus inevitable, Mr. Laker said.

They will take the form of flat increases on flights to specific destinations, regardless of the length of the holiday.

Add-ons

To Palma, Ibiza, Mahon, Rimini, Rome, Gerona and Barcelona, the surcharge will be *£3.85 per holiday. To Alicante* it will be £4.75; Malaga, £5.25; Tunis, £3.80; Athens, £5.20; Moscow, £4.20; Rhodes, £5.60, Corfu, £4; Tenerife, £8; Nicosia, £6.20; and to Munich, Geneva, Zurich and Basle, £3.

On top of these, there will be "*provincial add-ons*"—*further* rises to take account of the greater flying distances involved. These will be 40p for flights to and from Manchester, Liverpool and Blackpool; 60p for Newcastle and Teesside; and 70p for Glasgow and Belfast.

The *surcharges* will be collected at the airports by the airlines from midnight on *December 1. If fuel prices go* up further, the airlines' Joint Working Committee will meet to consider additional surcharges.

The rises have been agreed by the Tour Operators' Study Group, which has ensured they are the *lowest* possible. "No one is making any money out of this," said Mr. Laker. The airlines would already be losing £1m. between end-September and December 1.

The *Association of British* Travel Agents also agreed to recommend its members to accept the "*aviation fuel cost* increase" *on* inclusive holidays.

There were no fuel supply problems for the *independents* at present, but these could emerge any time now, Mr. Laker added. As and when they *did* their effect would be considered immediately by the Joint Working Committee.

Difficulties

Supply difficulties have already badly hit the long-haul scheduled airlines, however, especially on the North Atlantic. Most airlines on that route have had their November-December fuel deliveries at U.S. points cut back by amounts between 30 and 50 per cent., and in some cases by *even greater amounts*.

As a result, British Airways, Pan American and TWA have agreed, *subject to Government* approvals, to cut from seven to five the number of flights they each make weekly on the London - Boston - Philadelphia routes—a reduction of about 30 per cent.

They will meet in London next week to consider cuts on the London-New York and Washingtin routes. British Airways and National Airlines are *discussing* cuts on London-Miami. Pan Am and TWA meet to-day in Washington with Lufthansa for talks on cuts between Frankfurt and the U.S.

Swissair yesterday said it was cutting its transatlantic flights *from Monday. There* will be only one daily flight between Zurich-Geneva-New York instead of two at present.

Pan Am and TWA start further talks on Monday with British Airways and others who fly the Pacific, such as Japan Air Lines and Qantas, with a view to cuts in flights in that region.

Within Europe, the scheduled *airlines* have *already* met in Brussels to consider the likely effects of any fuel supply difficulties, and have agreed to adjust their flight frequencies on a bilateral basis, through normal pooling arrangements, as and when necessary.

Nearly *every* major international airline is now also using revised flight techniques—such as *flying higher and slower*—to try to save fuel.

£ in New York

—	November 15	Previous
Spot	$2.3890-3870	$2.3840-3850
1 month	1.00-0.95 dis	1.00-0.90 dis
3 months	4.21-4.10 dis	3.20-3.10 dis
12 months	12.30-12.10 dis	12.10-11.80 dis

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Heath talks to French leader

Heath and M. Pompidou, French President, began days of talks at Chequers EEC, the oil crisis and ns with *the U.S.*

of the main points of their sions was expected to be ration on foreign policy the EEC. Europe's failure rt any significant influence the Middle East conflict nvinced both leaders of the ance of a united EEC voice. age

w Italian napping

Luigi Rossi di Montelera, the former head of the l and Rossi vermouth ny, missing since he tennis in Turin on sday "has been kid-1," the investigating rate said. The news came ours after Mrs. Gail Harris ed answers in Rome to estions which satisfied her her kidnapped son, Paul III was alive.

bulancemen e strike

m *County* ambulancemen, g over a local pay dispute, d to answer accident and ency calls after the county l had offered them a £2.58 Page 17

Board order Clay Cross

Cross Council, *Derbyshire*, dered by the Pay Board to paying wage increase of than £5 a week to its l workers. Page 15

pply ship sinks

gian mate was reported when the off-shore supply Sea Explorer overturned ank in rough seas off Esj- Norway. The rest of the of eight were saved. The was on charter to Brown oot, of Great Yarmouth.

ylab 3 away

U.S. astronauts were d off from Cape Canaveral eir Apollo ferry ship to from 60 to 84 days aboard

ar hunting ban

most total ban on the hunt- polar bears was agreed in by the U.S., Canada, Nor- Denmark and Russia.

kills 26

ast 26 people, including children, died in a fire that *through a three-floor* apartment complex in a area *of Los* Angeles.

chairman held

Kenneth Howarth, former man of E. J. Austin International, was arrested at Heath- irport on a warrant alleging racy to defraud. Page 17

se alarm

with false teeth often lost st in sex, feeling that they uddenly become old men, a sh *psychiatrist* told dentists ckholm.

efly . . .

eginald Maudling, MP for t and former Home tary, denied reports that he *not be standing at the next* on.

Queen will make her usual and television broadcast to ommonwealth on Christmas

Games Federation voted to China to next year's Asian s in place of Taiwan.

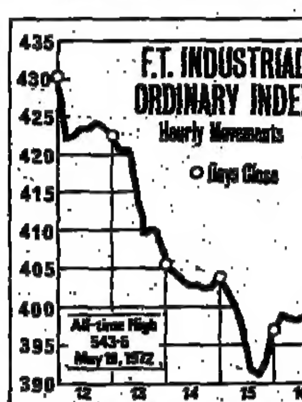
or Edward Kennedy's 12- ld son will have a leg tated to-day because of r.

pian and African drought l reached £696,000.

BUSINESS

Wall St. gains 16.78 on oil hopes

● *EQUITIES ended* the first leg of the Account on a much steadier note, helped by the Prime Minister's confident *coments* about the economy's growth potential. Reported remarks by President Nixon on *the possible easing of the oil* supply situation came too late to influence the market trade much, but prices did rally more sharply in inter-office dealings. The *FT* Industrial Ordinary Index closed 5.5 up at 402.6 for a net loss of 27.7, or 6.4 per cent., on the week—one of its worst on record. Discount Houses, which moved higher yesterday, were the week's *major casualty* with a 19 per cent. drop in the FT-Actuaries sector index to 158.67.



● GILTS ended the week quietly, general gains of ½ leaving quotations as much as four points down on the week.

● WALL STREET, which had eased 1.66 points by 11 a.m., suddenly shot up to 892.59 for a net gain of 19.04 by 11.38 on reported remarks by President Nixon about a possible easing of the oil supply situation. It dropped back ten points again by noon, however.

The Index closed 16.78 up at 891.33.

● GOLD sold *for* 50 cents less at $90.50 an ounce.

● STERLING weighted depre*ciation widened to 17.54 per cent.* (17.42 corrected. Against the dollar, the pound lost 5 points to $2.3865. Swedish and Danish currencies were in demand as foreign exchanges adjusted to the 5 per cent. revaluation of the Norwegian krone. The D-Mark received *some official* support.

● TREASURY BILL rate rose *sharply to* 12.4126 per cent. (10.7124). Back Page

● U.S. CORPORATE after-tax profits fell by $100m. to $71,500m. in the third *quarter*—the first decline in nearly three years.

● WEST GERMAN Cabinet has decided to buy from RWE 48.3 per cent. of the equity of Gelsenberg, the oil and chemicals company, in order to set up a national oil concern. The cost to the Government will be about DM.641m. Page 12

● CURBS introduced by the Government's State of Emergency are believed to have cut *electricity* demand *sufficiently*, so far, to more or less cancel out the effects of the engineers' ban on *out-of-hours working*.
Back Page

● *TERMS have* been agreed for a £10.9m. takeover of Mr. James Gulliver's Oriel Foods by RCA Corporation of the U.S.
Page 17 and Lex; News Analysis, Page 14

● WEDGWOOD, with sales 20 per cent. ahead at £12.86m., has more than doubled profits from £770,000 to £1.64m. in the six months to September 29.
Page 22 and Lex

● LONDON AND COUNTY Securities has dropped its £7.8m. bid for the Inveresk Group, following the reference of its offer to the Monopolies Commission.
Page 26

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.)

RISES:

..zs 3% 66-75	£89½	+ 1/16
..ng 5½% 78/80	£72½	+ ¼
..nders Discount	195	+ 10
..	94	+ 7
..	264	+ 7
(J.)	123	+ 5
..house (J.)	217	+ 7
..	106	+ 5
..man (B.)	77	+ 8
..	383	+ 17
..s	71	+ 6
..oys	293	+ 48
..	142	+ 4
..horn Leslie	121	+ 9
(C. H.)	270	+ 27
..and Henderson	138	+ 15
..s Bank	280	+ 6
..at Joinery	262	+ 22
Martin The Newsag't	174	+ 12
Metal Box	258	+ 10
NSS Newsagents	90	+ 6
Northborough Inv.	132	+ 9
Pork Farms	197	+ 12
Shipping Ind. Hldgs.	525	+ 19
Star (Gt. Britain)	168	+ 11
Surinvest	105	+ 7
Whessoe	116	+ 5
Shell Transport	242	+ 5
Ultramar	228	+ 10
Utd. Canes	£12¼	+ ¼
Broken Hill South	215	+ 15
East Drie.	345	+ 15
East Rand Prop.	360	+ 15
Harmony	315	+ 15
Northgate Expln.	260	+ 15
Stilfontein	230	+ 10
Western Deep	800	+ 20

FALLS:

Camford Engineering	90	− 5
Royal Insurance	277	− 7
Waddington 'B'	190	− 16

(FT stock indices and FT-Actuaries summary Page 21.)

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The week in London and New York

Sharp setback for Equities

Nerves of steel have been the main investor prerequisite this week for not only has the economic news been bad but it has come largely out of the blue. The market expected Tuesday to produce another set of poor trade figures but a visible deficit of £298m. for October was a disaster—and a positive embarrassment for those Ministers in pursuit of all-out economic growth.

Moreover, the gravity of the day—Bank minimum lending rate raised to 13 per cent. and an official call for a further 2 per cent. of special deposits—was made worse by the declaration of a national state of emergency with the Government going over onto the offensive in its bargaining with the unions. The mine workers' over-time ban—with all it implies against a background of reduced oil supplies — sparked off this latest confrontation, and

WORST PERFORMING SECTORS FROM NOVEMBER 12 TO 15

	% fall
Discount Houses	19.4
Property	15.2
Hire Purchase	13.0
Contracting & Construction	11.7
Motors & Distributors	9.9
Banks	9.4
Building Materials	8.9
Engineering (Heavy)	8.7
Packaging & Paper	8.5
Shipping	8.1
All-Share Index	6.9

for the equity market the upshot was a one-day fall of 17.4 points. Over the following two days the FT Industrial (30-Share) index eased down through the 400 level but rallied yesterday for a decline on the week of 27.7 points to 402.6.

For the fixed interest market the message this week has been no less depressing, and even gold mines lost some of their shine as an obvious hedge in time of confidence crisis. Consols 2½ per cent. now yield well over 12 per cent. and any long term attractions here are still clearly a straight gamble. As for golds, the central bank's ending of their two-tier gold price system has created short-term uncertainty.

In general then the stock market must now have lost count of the number of uncertainties it faces. On Wall Street the outlook has been confused despite a clear turnround to a surplus in the U.S. balance of payments, and this has only added to the sheer size of some of the recent price reversals in London. Land Securities, for example, is this week down 37p to 235p. The one bright spot was the nine time oversubscription for Christie's offer for sale.

Textiles: High profits and low ratings

When textile giants like Courtaulds and Coats Patons can report half year profits almost doubled and up 52 per cent. respectively—with smaller groups like Joseph Dawson up 160 per cent. at the half-way mark—it seems pretty unfair that all three are on prospective p/e's in the 6 to 7 range.

Prospective is the key word. When those p/e's are historic, we will be into 1974 and a new ball game as far as some analysts are concerned. They are worried about the likely trend of consumer spending in the U.K.; problems with raw material and labour shortages; and the general fear of a power crisis and plants out of action. Shareholders looking for comfort, however, may be more inclined to look at the 37 per cent. jump in Courtaulds' export sales; a Dawson export ratio now approaching 50 per cent.; and the fact that over 80 per cent. of Coats' profits were earned overseas last year.

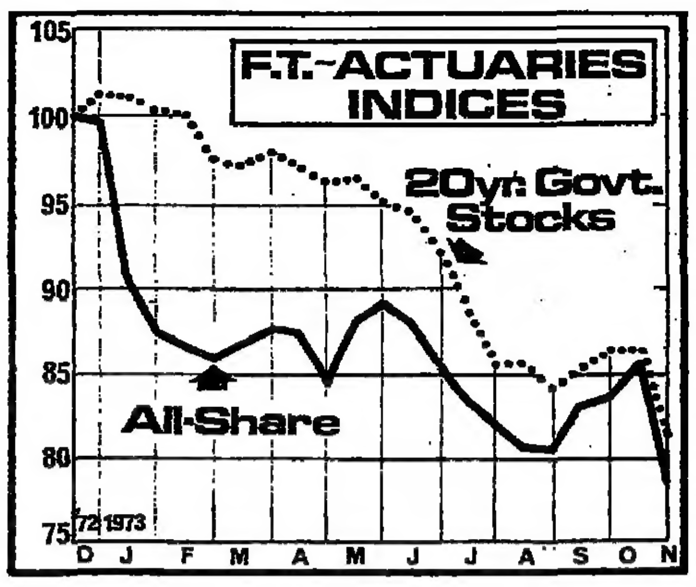
Hitting Wall Street when it's down

For much of this year British companies have been looking longingly at the apparently cheap p/e ratios available on Wall Street. If you really want to be a proper international group, so the argument runs, you have to be represented in the U.S., and this is the right time to buy. The logic may have had its shaky moments lately, for the London market has been falling just as fast as Wall Street, while the dollar has been strong. But three British entrepreneurial Jims — Messrs. Slater, Goldsmith and Hanson—were all in New York this week, sizing up possible takeover deals. Mr. Goldsmith, indeed, succeeded in getting as far as launching a $62m. tender offer for 51 per cent. of the Grand Union supermarket chain. Meanwhile back in London British Oxygen was announcing its interest in making a bid for Airco, a U.S. group whose activities in gases, metals and medical equipment parallel those of BOC.

It remains to be seen how successful these British bidders will prove; in the recent past it has proved very hard for U.K. contenders to emerge on top in contested U.S. bid situations. Thus, Triumph Investment Trust and British Land were unlucky. Grand Union is suffering badly from the suicidal competition among U.S. supermarketeers, and the $19 a share terms give a p/e of 15 times the past 12 months' (declining) earnings, but the Board is not specifically recommending it to shareholders. As for BOC, it has already seen off one unnamed U.S. rival for Airco's hand, but these are early days (there are no terms yet).

Timber prospects

Wednesday's announcement from Mallinson of more than trebled interim pre-tax profits did not prevent the shares from falling in line with the market, and the week's events have a number of implications for the timber companies. First the base rate increase will have more than a marginal effect on financing charges; Montague Meyer's fall of 15 per cent. on the week was very much a reflection of the £16m. of net short term borrowings in the last balance sheet. The other aspect of the credit squeeze is its effect on the sector's two main customers, housing and furniture. We are likely to see a fall in the number of housing starts, both because of the necessity to tighten up on building finance and the implications for building society inflows if interest rates rise any further. Meanwhile furniture will suffer along with the rest of consumer durables.



On the brighter side the sector's asset attractions for bidders have been accentuated recently both by Parker's property revaluation and by the outside estimate of May and Hassell's net worth. Both shares hit new highs for the year on Monday. Fighting off unwelcome bids via bullish earnings forecasts seems to be out of the question, since many companies are well over their reference levels and the Price Commission is breathing down a number of necks, so the climate could be right for a spate of defensive revaluations.

No honeymoon for Royal

On Wednesday, General Accident's marginal improvement in third quarter underwriting profits made a 1973 pre-tax total of roughly £40m. against £33.4m. look feasible. On Thursday, Royal Insurance reported a third quarter underwriting deterioration of over £12m., and overall profits targets had to be hurriedly cut back to around £40m. against £50.8m. The first explanation for this startling contrast seems to lie in GA's emphasis on personal, as opposed to commercial and industrial, lines of business. For instance, profitability on U.K. motor is still improving for both companies, but Royal's commitment to this area is much smaller than GA's, and some nasty industrial fire experience was enough to cut home profits by roughly £2½m. in the three months.

Industrial fire was also a problem in the U.S., and claims costs have also been rising rapidly on general liability lines like workmen's compensation. The result is that Royal's North American declines are much more severe than GA's even though the latter started from a very much more profitable peak in 1972. Finally, Royal has special problems in Australia — with losses so far of £5.4m. on annual premium income of only about £35m. to £40m.

Since Royal's system of calculating reserves has always looked at least as conservative as the competition's its results only serve to emphasise the difficulty of projecting profits trends for the composites in an inflationary period. The immediate question concerns Commercial Union; its third-quarter figures are due on Monday, and everyone expects unpleasant news from its Australian interests. Then we have to consider why GA is selling on a p/e of under 8 against about 11 for Royal. With growth in investment income running at 22 and 14 per cent. respectively, there is no reason at this stage to expect that its 1974 experience will compare unfavourably with Royal's.

Onlooker

MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

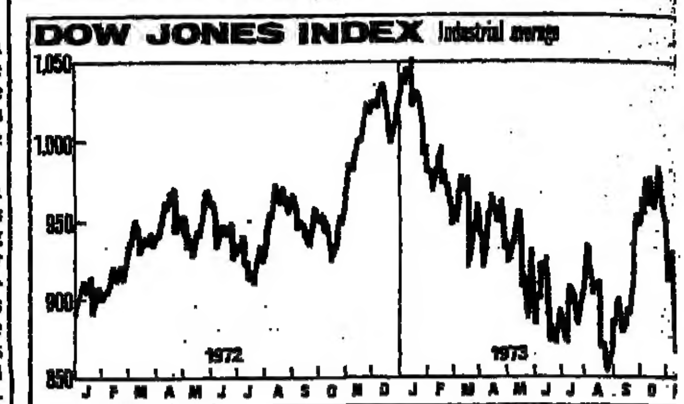
	Y'day	Change on Week	1973 High	1973 Low	
F.T. Ind. Ord. Index	402.6	−27.7	509.5	397.1	Govt.'s restrictive measures
Treasury 10½% 1976	£95 5/16	− 3 11/16	£98¾	£94	Surprise hoist in MLR to 13%
Treasury 9¼% 1999	£83⅝	− 3¼	£98¼	£83½	Surprise hoist in MLR to 13%
Barclays Bank	352	−31	468	332	Further 2% special deposits
Beaverbrook 'A'	109	−20	133	89	Disappointing results
Bovis	226	−32	362	220	Mr. F. Sanderson's resignation
Broken Hill South	215	+45	216	130	Restoration of tax concession
Clarkson Int. 'A'	62½	+12½	67	41	Bid approach from Thorn Elect.
Forbuoys	293	+53	293	158	Agreed bid from Gallaher
Land Secs.	235	−37	273	157	Credit squeeze
Lowe & Brydone	83	+33	83	61	Mr. F. Sanderson acquires control
Lucas (J.)	153	−26	238	145	Disappointing results
Marley	79	−14½	122	79	Credit squeeze
Nat. & Com. Banking	154	−22	216	145	Disappointing results
Palabora	640	+65	760	535	Copper price strength
Royal Ins.	277	−39	406	277	Poor third-quarter figures
Shipping Ind. Hldgs.	525	+55	535	243	Hopes of a higher offer
Turner & Newall	156	−19	228	152	General trend
U.D.T.	98	−17	126	93	Tighter money conditions
Union Discount	295	−77	510	290	Sharp fall in gilts

Energy worries

BY NICHOLAS COLCHESTER

BY LAST Wednesday evening one over-riding fear, that the U.S. would be up to 3m. barrels of oil short of its daily requirement of 17m. barrels, had decimated the late summer rally on Wall Street. In 13 days of trading the indices had suffered one of the most dramatic declines that brokers could remember, taking the Dow Industrial Index down 117 points to 870.

On Thursday the market staged a weak rally and yesterday the frenetic decline was replaced by an equally frenetic rise as President Nixon hinted at an end to the oil embargo and the Soviet leader, Mr. Brezhnev, stated that the U.S. and the Soviet Union had a common desire to see peace re-established in the Middle East. After rising 16.78 points yesterday the Dow ended the week at 891.33, down 17.08 on the week.



On every day except Thursday the market retreated on a volume that is usually reserved for sudden bull moves and with emphatic breadth. The Dow Jones index of utility stocks went to two successive 13-year lows and General Motors, the giant of Detroit, touched an 11-year low and was, at its Thursday night price of 55¼, offering a dividend yield of 9.5 per cent.—well above the rate of return on a prime corporate bond.

The looming petrol shortage drew a spate of conflicting opinions from top Administration officials, some of them emphasising the severity of the country's predicament and others pooh-poohing it. Thus Commerce Secretary Dent talked of plant shutdowns and "massive employee layoffs," while Treasury Secretary Shultz suggested that a recession could be avoided. The economists who work the econometric model of the Wharton Business School predicted that the oil shortage would slow the real rate of economic growth in 1974 from 3½ to something over 1 per cent. and would boost the GNP deflator to over 7 per cent.

The market's decline covered a wide swathe but was once again particularly noticeable in the stocks of companies whose prosperity depends on oil. Briggs and Stratton, a large manufacturer of the little engines that motorise so much of American life, dropped to $46. Outboard Marine, the biggest company in the outboard motor business, dropped from 30 to 24¼.

Walt Disney Productions, an extremely important institutional stock, fell another $2 to $53 on fears that petrol rationing would reduce the number of visitors to Disney World. Earlier this year Disney was a portfolio favourite at 123. McDonald's, the leading purveyor of hamburgers, took a beating for equivalent reasons and its price sunk another 10 per cent.

Traders also seized on some stocks that are expected to benefit from the Arab oil embargo. Tesoro Petroleum, a company that draws the majority of its crude oil and natural gas in Trinidad, put on ¼ to 48¼. Getty Oil, which gets 70 per cent. of its oil from North America, rose to 163¼, and Halliburton, the oil well service company, rose from 177¼ to 186.

From a European perspective this stock market is now behaving in a strange and emotional manner. The oil threat poses a problem to be sure, but does it imply a change in the fundamentals drastic enough to account for the recent plunge in stock prices. Indeed, to a Japanese or German observer the strength of the U.S. economy relative to those of its main trading partners has been if anything increased by recent events.

MINES IN THE NEWS

On the burning deck

BY KENNETH MARSTON

JUST WHEN holders of Gold shares were congratulating themselves for being able to stand coolly aloof from all the economic mayhem that was blazing up around them, the ship gave a nasty lurch this week. It was caused by the news that the two-tier gold market had been abandoned.

Previously, the various countries' central banks were only supposed to deal in gold at the monetary price of $42.22 per ounce. Now they are free to sell the metal at the much higher prices ruling on the free market. Whether they may also buy on the free market is a moot point: America says "no," France says "yes" and South Africa is going to please itself as usual.

Price uncertainty

What has unnerved the Gold share market has been the fear that central bank selling will depress the free market gold price and, worse, South Africa may retaliate by holding her gold off the market. The U.S. Federal Reserve Board chairman, however, reckons that the central banks have no intention of either selling or buying on the free market while other observers regard the latest move as a prelude to raising the monetary price to a more realistic level.

At the risk of over-simplification in what is a complicated subject, it seems unlikely that the central banks would want to sell gold, or anything else for that matter, for paper money in a world of galloping inflation. Don't you wish that you had bought that new car last year when your wife wanted you to instead of holding on to your money until to-day? It's going to cost you a good deal more, which is another way of saying that your money is now worth so much less.

We shall just have to wait and see what happens once the dust settles, but at least the bullion and share markets have behaved rather better than some others I could mention. True, gold fell $10.95 to around $86 at one time on Wednesday when the gold news became known, but the price rallied to end the day at $90 and has since edged a little higher.

The share market took a nasty tumble, of course, but it has also steadied and it has been encouraging to note that there has been very little selling in London by U.S. holders who have been sizeable buyers in recent times. In all, I am inclined to be cautious but not pessimistic.

Australian reprieve

The Australian mining market has been cheered-up by news that the Labour Government has been persuaded to defer until next June the recent budget proposal to take away the mining industry's tax concessions. So the gold industry will continue to operate on a tax-free basis instead of paying the full corporation rate of 47½ per cent.

Producers of other materials such as bauxite, uranium, copper, nickel, tin and mineral sands will keep their 20 per cent. tax exemption. But the Government stands firm on its decision that there will be no exemption of tax on mining dividends. Producers of iron ore, coal, lead, zinc and silver carry on as before because they had no concessions to lose in the first place.

The South African and Rhodesian Messina group has had a good 12 months to September 30 thanks to higher copper prices and improved fortunes of the Datsun-Nissan motor subsidiary. Profits have risen to R12.25m. (£7.61m.) against R8.7m. and the dividend total has been lifted by 5 cents to 43 cents (26.7p) out of earnings of 102 cents per share.

Taking London Metal Exchange prices, copper averaged £604 per ton in Messina's year to September 30, compared with £423 in the previous 12 months. In recent weeks the price has really taken off and, having broken all records, it has moved towards a breath-taking £1,000 per ton this week.

It may well be treading in dangerous territory now, especially if the gloomy forecasts of the likely effects of the fuel crisis on the U.S. economy turn out to be correct. Even so, Messina shares are not over-priced and on the basis of the average copper price received in 1972-73 the group can afford to take any reasonable setback in copper in its stride and still produce respectable earnings for the current year.

The higher copper prices have been a help to Charter Consolidated in reducing the losses of its big Somima mine which is still sweating it out in the Mauretanian desert. Overall Charter has had a good half year with profits of £7.64m against £5.95m. in the first six months of the year to last March when the total reached £12.4m. The latest interim of 2p net is equivalent to 2.86p compared with the previous year's gross interim of 2.5p.

Chances are that this Anglo American group mining finance house—a notable investor in the other mining finance houses—will do even better in the current half year providing that share-dealing profits do not fall off too much. The total revenue will also be swelled by a £6.57m. net profit made on the recent sale of the interest in Western Decalta Petroleum.

Selection Trust

Another U.K.-based mining finance house, Selection Trust—in which Charter has a 32.8 per cent. stake—has not done so well in its half year. The interim dividend has been effectively maintained at 4.375p net but net profits have eased to £2.81m. from £2.98m. at this time last year, the 1972-73 total having been £7.35m.

On the credit side, dividend income has risen, notably from American Metal Climax, Western Mining and, presumably, the Tsumeb base-metal operation in South West Africa. Of mining income, the Canadian South Bay zinc mine has had a very good half year while in Australia Mount Newman has made more.

The latter has started to pay tax, however, and Selection's own provision for U.K. tax has been lifted. Profits from share dealings have fallen from the previous year's exceptionally high levels, this revenue having amounted to just on £5m. of the £12m. gross revenue received in the full year to last March. So the current full year's outcome will depend on how the increased dividend and mining revenue offsets a likely fall in that from share dealings.

A modest sample shaft headgear marks the birth of De Beers' potential new D/K 1 diamond mine in Botswana which could start production in 18 months' time. While expected to be a smaller mine than the group's big Orapa property, some 40 kilometres away, the newcomer contains a higher percentage of gem stones than Orapa which turns out approximately 15 per cent. gems and 85 per cent. industrial diamonds.

TV/Radio

BBC 1

† Indicates programme in black and white.

9.00 a.m. Barnby. 9.15 Hair Bear Bunch. 9.35 Right Charlie starring Charlie Cairoli. 10.00 Zarabanda. 10.25 Reportage. †10.50 The Russian Alphabet. 11.00 The Virginian. 12.15 p.m. Cartoon Time. 12.25 Weekend Weather.

12.30 Grandstand: 12.35 Football Preview; 12.55, 1.25, 1.55 Racing from Ascot; 1.10, 1.40 Boxing: Chris Finnegan v Mike Quarry and Danny McAlinden v Tony Ventura; 2.15 Rugby Union: England v Australia; 4.00 Ice Hockey: London Lions v Prague All Stars; 4.25 Show Jumping from Toronto; 4.40 Final Score.

5.10 Who, What or Where?
5.30 News and To-day's Sport.
5.45 Wonderful World of Disney.
6.25 Bruce Forsyth and the Generation Game.
7.25 It's Lulu.
8.10 Men of Action: "Soldier Of Fortune," starring Clark Gable and Susan Hayward.
9.45 News.
10.00 Match of the Day.
11.00 Parkinson.

All Regions as BBC 1 except at the following times:—

Wales—5.45-6.05 p.m. Cartoons. 6.05-6.35 Deg i Dragwyddoldeb. †12.02 a.m. News of Wales.

Scotland—4.55-5.05 p.m. Sportsreel (and 5.40-5.45). 10.00-10.30 The Songs of Scotland. 10.30-11.00 Sportsreel. 12.02 a.m. Scottish News Headlines.

Northern Ireland—2.30-4.00 p.m. Rugby Union Football: Ulster v Munster. 4.55-5.10 Scoreboard. 5.40-5.45 Northern Ireland News. †12.02 a.m. Northern Ireland News Headlines.

6.45 Westminster.
7.15 News and Sport.
7.25 Rugby Special: England v Australia.
8.10 Grubstreet.
8.40 2nd House: a look at the Cultural life of Liverpool ten years after the Beatles.
10.10 The Golden Bowl, part 3.
10.55 News on 2.
11.00 Film Night Special: preview of the London Film Festival.
†11.30 Midnight Movie: "Fallen Angel," starring Dana Andrews, Linda Darnell and Alice Faye.

BBC 2

3.00 p.m. Saturday Cinema: "Prince Valiant," starring Robert Wagner, James Mason and Janet Leigh.
4.35 Play Away.
5.00 Saturday Request.
5.55 Man Alive.

LONDON

9.05 a.m. Cover to Cover. 9.30 Improve Your Bridge. 9.55 Joe 90. 10.20 The Amazing Chan and the Chan Clan. 10.50 Junior Police Five. 11.00 The Partridge Family. 11.35 Tarzan. 12.30 p.m. News from ITN.

12.35 World of Sport: 12.40 On the Ball; 1.05 International Sports Special (part 1 with Rachael Heyhoe); 1.30, 2.00, 2.30 and 3.00 Racing from Wetherby: 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 Racing from Warwick; 3.10 International Sports Special (part 2): Dewar Cup Finals; 3.50 Results; 4.00 Wrestling; 4.50 Results Service.

5.10 News from ITN.
5.20 New Faces.
6.00 Doctor in Charge.
6.30 Sale of the Century.
7.00 Movie of the Weekend: "Family Flight," starring Rod Taylor and Dina Merrill (film made especially for television).
8.30 Upstairs, Downstairs.
9.30 News from ITN.
9.40 Who Do You Do?
10.10 "Five Card Stud," starring Dean Martin and Robert Mitchum.
11.55 International Tennis—Dewar Cup Finals.
12.20 a.m. Pieces of Seven.
12.25 Shirley's World.

All ITV Regions as London except at the following times:—

ANGLIA

9.50 a.m. Hammy Hamster's Adventures on the Riverbank. 10.00 The Amazing Chan and the Chan Clan. †10.30 Saturday Morning Film: "Tarzan and the Leopard Woman." 11.50 Cartoons. 12.00 Primus. 5.20 p.m. The Partridge Family. 5.50 New Faces. 7.00 Doctor in Charge. 7.30 Hawaii Five-O. †9.40 The Great Films of the Sixties: "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. 12.05 a.m. Tennis: Dewar Cup Finals. 12.35 At the End of the Day.

ATV MIDLANDS

†9.00 a.m. A Moment's Reflection. 9.15 Cover to Cover. 9.40 Improve your Bridge. 10.05 Joe 90. 10.35 The Merrie Melodies Show. 11.00 Family Affair. 11.25 Cartoon. 11.35 Tarzan Adventures. 6.00 p.m. The Partridge Family. 7.00 Doctor in Charge. 7.30 Saturday Night Star Movie: "The Night of the Grizzly," starring Clint Walker. 9.15 Double Top presented by Billy Wright. 9.40 Upstairs Downstairs. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.25 Bonanza.

BORDER

10.35 a.m. Woobinda—Animal Doctor. 11.05 Feature Film. 6.00 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. †6.30 Border Sports Results. 6.35 Week-end Action Film. 8.00 Doctor In Charge. 9.40 Great Films of the Sixties.

CHANNEL

10.50 a.m. Film Fun with . . . "Heidi." 12.10 p.m. Puffin's Birthday Greetings. 12.15 Cartoontime. 6.00 The Partridge Family. 7.00 Doctor In Charge. 7.30 The Saturday Film: "Jesse James." 9.40 Upstairs, Downstairs. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.25 Life in France. 11.55 Top Brass.

GRAMPIAN

11.15 a.m. The Amazing Chan and the Chan Clan. 11.45 Ron and Friends. 6.30 p.m. The Sky's The Limit. †7.00 Saturday Cinema: "Invasion Quartet," starring Bill Travers, Spike Milligan, John Le Mesurier and Millicent Martin. 9.40 Anna And The King. †10.10 Saturday Feature: "The War Lover," starring Steve McQueen, Robert Wagner and Shirley Ann Field. 12.05 a.m. Tennis—Dewar Cup Finals.

GRANADA

9.15 a.m. Cover to Cover. 9.55 Improve Your Bridge. 10.05 Sesame Street. †11.05 "Poor Little Rich Girl," starring Shirley Temple with Alice Faye and Jack Haley. 6.30 p.m. Kung Fu. 7.30 Barnaby Jones. 9.40 Great Films of the Sixties: "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. 12.05 a.m. Tennis: Dewar Cup Finals. 12.35 Wild Animal Men.

HTV

9.55 a.m. Hammy Hamster's Adventures on the Riverbank. 10.10 Sesame Street. 11.10 Orbit. 11.35 Joe 90. 12.00 The Partridge Family. 7.00 p.m. Saturday Film: "Bomb At 10.10," starring George Montgomery. 9.40 Billy Liar. 10.10 "Warning Shot," starring George Sanders, Joan Collins and Walter Pidgeon.

SCOTTISH

9.55 a.m. Pauline. 10.10 Flipper. †10.40 Feature Film: "Good Morning Boys," starring Will Hay, Graham Moffatt and Lilli Palmer. 12.00 Saturday Cavalcade with Glen Michael. 6.00 p.m. The Partridge Family. 6.30 The Sky's The Limit. 7.00 Doctor in Charge. 7.30 "Man From Uncle" Season: The Spy With My Face starring Robert Vaughn, David McCallum and Senta Berger. 9.40 Upstairs, Downstairs. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.25 Late Call. 11.30 Adam 12.

SOUTHERN

10.40 a.m. Regional Weather Forecast. 10.45 "Pirates of Tortuga," starring Ken Scott. 7.00 p.m. The Saturday Film: "Tarzan's Fight for Life," starring Gordon Scott. 9.40 Kung Fu. 10.40 Southern News. †10.45 The Late Saturday Film: "Shock Treatment," starring Stuart Whitman and Lauren Bacall.

TYNE TEES

†10.00 a.m. The Little Rascals. 10.25 Arthur. 10.55 Popeye. 11.05 Saturday Morning Cinema: "Ambush at Tomahawk Gap." 6.00 p.m. Bless This House. 6.30 The Week-end Action Movie: "The Last Rampage," starring Ty Hardin. 8.00 Doctor In Charge. 9.40 Great Films of the Sixties: "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. 12.05 a.m. Dewar Cup Tennis. 12.35 Lectern.

ULSTER

10.50 a.m. Yoga for Health. 11.20 Sesame Street. 12.15 p.m. The Enchanted House. 5.20 Sports Cast. 5.45 The New Faces. 7.00 Doctor At Large. †7.30 Saturday Night At The Movies: "The Man On A Guillotine," starring Connie Stevens and Cesar Romero. 9.40 Upstairs, Downstairs. 10.40 The Gordon Burns Hour. 11.40 The Odd Couple. 12.05 a.m. Tennis—Dewar Cup.

WESTWARD

10.05 a.m. Cover to Cover. 10.25 The Amazing Chan and the Chan Clan. 10.50 Film Fun With . . . "Heidi," starring Shirley Temple. 12.10 p.m. Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 12.15 Politics and the West. 6.00 The Partridge Family. 7.00 Doctor In Charge. 7.30 The Saturday Film: "Jesse James," starring Tyrone Power and Henry Fonda. 9.40 Upstairs Downstairs. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.25 Politics and the West. 11.35 Top Brass. 11.55 Tennis Highlights—Dewar Cup. 12.25 a.m. Faith for Life.

YORKSHIRE

†10.00 a.m. Little Rascals. 10.25 Skippy. 10.55 Popeye. †11.05 Saturday Morning Cinema: "The Magnetic Monster." 6.00 p.m. The Comedians. 6.30 The Week-end Action Film: "The Last Rampage," starring Ty Hardin. 8.00 Doctor In Charge. †9.45 Great Films of the Sixties: "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. 12.05 Tennis—Dewar Cup Finals.

RADIO 1 — 247m

(S) Stereophonic broadcast

Time, traffic, and News summaries at 5.00 a.m., 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.30 and every hour on the half-hour until 1.30 p.m., 3.30, 4.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.00, 10.00, 12.00, 1 a.m., 2.00. Weather at 5.02 a.m., 5.32, 6.02, 6.32, 7.02, 7.32, 8.02, 2.02 a.m.

5.00 a.m. As Radio 2. 8.06 Ed Stewart (S) with Junior Choice. 9.31 Mike Yarwood; results of the Reveille Poll for the Radio 1 and 2 DJs of 1973. 9.55 Stuart Henry. 12.00 The Rosko Show. 2.00 p.m. The Story of Pop: (S) also on VHF. 3.00 Alan Freeman (S) also on VHF. 5.00 David Simmons (S) also on VHF. 6.30 In Concert (S) also on VHF. 7.30 As Radio 2. 10.02 Sounds of the 70s: (S) also on VHF. 12.00-2.02 a.m. As Radio 2.

RADIO 2 — 1,500m and VHF

Time, traffic, and News summaries at 5.00 a.m., 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.30, 10.00 and every hour on the hour until 2.00 p.m., 6.00, 7.30, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 1.00 a.m., 2.00. Weather at 5.02 a.m., 5.32, 6.02, 6.32, 7.02, 7.32, 8.02, 8.32, 6.02 p.m., 2.02 a.m.

5.00 a.m. News Summary. 5.02 Bruce Wyndham (S) with The Early Show including 8.03 Racing Bulletin. 8.06 As Radio 1. 9.55 For Younger Listeners. 10.02 Ray Moore (S) introduces Ken Goodwin, Don Lusher Big Band. 12.02 p.m. The Jackie Rae Show (S). 1.02 Parsley Sidings. 1.30 Strike Up The Band (S). 1.02-5.55 Sport on 2 (1500m only): 2.40, 1.30, 3.50, 5.25 International Rugby: England v Australia: 2.25, 3.25, 3.45, 3.53, 5.00, 5.45 Football: 2.04, 3.45 Racing: 3.10 Lawn Tennis: Dewar Cup: 3.10, 3.25 Motor Racing: RAC International Rally of Great Britain: 2.10, 2.30 Quiz on 2: 1.40 Sports Report. 6.03 Star Sound (1500m only). 7.00 Let's Go Latin (1500m only). 7.32 Festival (S). 8.15 Radio 2 Top Tunes (S). 9.07 Souvenirs of Vienna (S). 10.02 Big Band Night: 1500m (202m in Scotland). 12.00 Mid-night Newsroom. 12.05 a.m. Night Ride (S) including 12.15-12.17 RAC International Rally of Great Britain. 2.00 News Summary.

RADIO 3 — 464m, Stereo & VHF

8.00 a.m. News. 8.05 Bach Cantatas (S). 9.00 News. 9.05 Record Review (S). 10.15 Stereo Release (S). 11.15 Purcell and Britten recital (S). 12.15 p.m. Mid-day Concert, part 1: Weber, Schumann (S). 1.00 News. 1.05 The Positive World. 1.20 Mid-day Concert, part 2: Beethoven (S). 2.00 Woman of Action: Dame Edith Evans presents a personal choice of records (S). 3.15 Matinee Musicale (S). 4.15 The Classical Guitar (S). 4.55 Jazz Record Requests. 5.40 Music Now (S). 6.25 Britten and Bridge (S). 7.10 The Positive World. 7.25 The French Opera: Iphigénie en Tauride (S): opera in four acts: libretto by Francois Guillard, music by Gluck. Acts 1 and 2. 8.30. Martin Cooper, some reflections on the background to Gluck's opera. 8.50 Iphigénie en Tauride, Acts 3 and 4. 9.40 Zabaleta (S). 10.10 Vivaldi from the Bergen Festival (S). 11.45 News.

RADIO 4 — 434m, 330m, 285m & VHF

‡ Medium Wave only

6.30 a.m. News. 6.32 Farming To-day. ‡6.50 Outlook. 6.55 Weather, programme news. 7.00 News. 7.10 On Your Farm. 7.40 To-day's Papers. 7.45 Outlook. 7.50 To-day. ‡7.50 Travel News, What's On. 7.55 Weather programme news. 8.00 News and more of To-day including 8.30 Sports Spot and 8.40 To-day's Papers. 8.50 Yesterday in Parliament. 9.00 News. 9.05 From Our Own Correspondent. 9.30 The Week in Westminster. 10.00 News. 10.02 The Weekly World. 10.15 Daily Service. 10.30 Pick of the Week. 11.30 Announcements. 11.40 Sports Parade. 12.00 News. 12.02 p.m. You and Yours. 12.27 Top of the Form. ‡12.55 Weather, programme news. 1.00 News. 1.15 Any Questions? 2.00 Week-end Woman's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.05 Afternoon Theatre. 4.00 4th Dimension. 5.00 News. 5.02 Kaleidoscope. ‡5.55 Weather, programme news. 6.00 News. 6.15 Letter from America. 6.30 Sports Session. 7.00 News. 7.02 Desert Island Discs. 7.30 These You Have Loved (S). 8.30 Saturday-Night Theatre: "Riceyman Steps." 9.58 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 A Word In Edgeways. 11.00 Lighten Our Darkness. 11.15 News.

London Broadcasting — 417m and 97.3 VHF

6.00 a.m. The Morning Show presented by Nigel Rees. 9.00 Time Off presented by Alan Mackenzie. 12.00 Open Line. 3.00 p.m. Sport on Saturday with Mike Smith. 9.00 This is London. 10.00-6.00 a.m. Nightline.

Capital Radio — 539m and 95.8 VHF

6.00 a.m. Night Flight (continued). 7.00 Super Saturday: Roger Scott presents music and "What's On in London"; and at 9.00 Monty's Market Time. 10.00 You Don't Know What You've Got: Tim Rice airs vintage pop. 11.00 Kenny For Everett. 1.00 p.m. Hullabaloo (for eight to 15-year-olds). 3.00 Afternoon Affair with Gerald Harper. 5.30 Stella Gibbons's novel, "The Wolves Were in the Sledge," read by Yvonne Churchman. 6.00 Saturday Mardi Gras. 8.00 Capital Concert. 9.30 Black is Beautiful Music: Marsha Hunt's choice of Soul and Reggae. 11.00 Time For Lovers: Robin Ray with Music. 12.30-6.00 a.m. Night Flight.

TV Top 20

Week ending November 11

			Homes viewing (m.)
1	Generation Game...	BBC	7.4[illegible]
2	Coronation Street (Wed.)	Gran.	7.3[illegible]
3	Crossroads (Thrs.)	ATV	7.1[illegible]
4	Crossroads (Tues.)	ATV	7.1[illegible]
	Crossroads (Wed.)	ATV	7.[illegible]
6	Opportunity Knocks	Thms	6.9[illegible]
7	Coronation Street (Mon.)	Gran.	6.9[illegible]
8	Beryl's Lot	York	6.7[illegible]
9	Upstairs Downstairs	L/Wd	6.6[illegible]
	Steptoe and Son ...	BBC	6.6[illegible]
11	Sunday Night at London Palladium	ATV	6.5[illegible]
12	Dad's Army	BBC	6.4[illegible]
13	Armchair Theatre	Thms	6.4[illegible]
	News at Ten (Wed.)	ITN	6.4[illegible]
	Helen a Woman of To-day	L/Wd	6.4[illegible]
16	Softly, Softly	BBC	6.3[illegible]
	Crossroads (Fri.)	ATV	6.3[illegible]
18	Whicker Way Out West	York	6.30
19	30 Minutes Worth	Thms	6.20
20	Wonderful World of Disney	BBC	6.05

Figures compiled by Audits of Great Britain for the Joint Industry Committee for Television Advertising Research.

هكذا مت الأجل

Unit trusts

Your savings and investments

Managers opt for caution

CHRISTOPHER HILL

WEEK'S bad news about r's record trade gap and idden increase of the minimum lending rate to cent. came as a nasty to investment managers were just beginning to eart from the continuing f good company results, parently easing trend of t rates and the market's ice to all the bad news he Middle East.

question now is what is next and the major taxing the managers' is whether the increased f interest rates is "tem- " or whether it will stay for a long time. Unless is some light at the end interest rate tunnel, the stockmarket is bound to less attractive than play- round with fixed interest

ever, although in recent s there has been a detect- hange in the tone of unit half-year reports—which started to utter guarded sts like "stock market as a whole do not look sive"—investment mana- as a whole have kept powder dry and cash of funds are still histori- nigh. A few years ago 15 ent. would have been un- of but now it is fairly on. Of course, a few gers did have the courage that on a two year view J.K. stock market looked tive and Jessel Securities rticular recently launched paign to unitholders with ow is the time to buy" ge. The situation now slightly different but Jes- investment manager St Giles is still an elenting bull," reckoning he current level of interest cannot continue for long that the "market is now er than it was before."

ere is some support for this from other managers, h, understandably, they all very wary. Portfolio gers, for example, feel that is Government holding ition and that a reasonably -term view can be taken urrent high interest rates. n the other hand they are immediate hurry to enter narket at this point. And ilar view was expressed by vest which feels that it hold its fire at the moment, in the long term would r be in equities than interest stocks "whatever interest rates."

n the other side of the fence, r Walker (one of the est holders of cash all g) takes the view that est rates are now at a re realistic" level and they are going to remain The group is still very n on the defensive but ing a "weather-eye" open heap situations.

owever, having just launched an Extra Yield Fund, the M and G group is not too worried about the situation and is thankful that its unitholders also take that view—immediate repurchases following the bad news have been negligible. With corporate earnings still not turning down, M and G's managers are picking up stocks in the market where they consider that bargains exist.

Somewhat stronger negative views were expressed by Barclays Unicorn and National Provident Institution. The former has been trying to add extra quality to the portfolios during the current downturn without taking undue risks. "We don't want any Victoria Crosses" said Bill Hilling, the Barclays Unicorn investment manager. But the bulk of new money is going into the U.S. market where they feel the economy is fundamentally right despite the current shakeout. NPI, is taking an even more gloomy view of world stockmarkets across the board and reckons that while fixed interest rates are so good that it "does not pay to be too clever."

So what are the implications for the unitholder in the present environment? The facts of the situation are that whereas the majority of fund managers consider that U.K. stocks are cheap on fundamental grounds, they are worried about the immediate political and psychological factors. Therefore they would rather keep an above-average liquidity level at the moment. In addition although there is a high degree of fundamentalist enthusiasm for the long-term future of other markets like the U.S. and Japan, no one is very confident about the short-term future.

All one can say is that during the current period investment managers have kept their heads and have performed a lot better over the past year than they did in the 1970s bear market—largely because of their greater willingness to go liquid and take "money management" decisions on behalf of unitholders rather than remaining in equities through thick and thin. This has meant that over the past year (at least until the end of last week) the average unit trust has performed better than the F.T. All Share Index. G. S. Herbert's figures showed that compared with a 12.5 per cent. fall in the All Share, the average unit trust fall was 9 per cent. Moreover, 30 trusts actually achieved plus performances over the full year—mainly European-orientated funds, commodity funds and small growth funds. And some of the new trusts have done very well, especially Hambro Second Smaller Companies, Bridge Overseas, Wieler Growth Fund, M and G Far Eastern and Vavasseur Far Eastern.

UARANTEED BONDS

edging bets

R THE past couple of ths most of the life com- es which issue guaranteed me bonds have revised r rates upwards and up to eek ago it looked as if the t had been reached. But if rest rates go any higher the most competitive might to take a second look— h is not welcomed at all use of the incentive to dholders to exchange their ent investments for those ng a higher rate.

ut the really interesting ation is that which has eloped between the Atlantic ed Income Bond and the lent Gilt Edged Bond—both iched recently. The former cally looks for a rise in rest rates since its return is ed to yields on local iority yearling bonds—with use line of effectively 8.8 per t.

he latter, on the other hand, aking the view that interest s will fall over the 6-year of the bond. Although its ranteed income is pitched ier low at between 8.88 and per cent., the early sur- der rates are linked to the ital value of Treasury 9 per t. 1980, as is the maturity le (although at this point re is a money-back rantee).

o far Atlantic Assurance has the first round and the pany has now added a 3-year term to existing 5- and 7-year terms, thus reaffirming its faith that interest rates will remain high. Trident, however, has to keep a stiff upper lip at the moment though the managers remain convinced that they will be right over the longer term with the Government introducing fiscal measures to control the economy. But meanwhile, Trident has just announced new high immediate annuity rates which shows that it prefers to have more than one string to its bow. Investors also are wise to hedge their bets.

● NATIONAL SAVINGS

Future role

RECENT NEWS that the rate of interest on the National Savings Bank's Investment Accounts will be increased from 8 to 9 per cent. at the beginning of next year sounded fine in the context of easing interest rates. But after this week it looks less satisfactory and the National Savings chiefs are becoming more than anxious for the Government to take some positive action to determine the movement's future. This week, for example, the chairman Sir Robert Bellinger, met the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss the future role of the voluntary workers and what resources would be made available to enable them to fulfil this role. The Trustee Savings Banks must also be wondering what is going to happen to them because the Government has said very little since the Page Report last August.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

. Blue Chip Performance Indicator†	81.12	−5.50
. Actuaries All-Share Index (adjusted)*	79.35	−5.85

† Calculated by taking the arithmetic mean of the price nges from the beginning of the year of the constituents of Financial Times 30 Share Index. The base value is 100 on cember 29, 1972. This indicator illustrates the movement of ypothetical equity portfolio initially invested in equal amounts each constituent.

* Recalculated from 100 on December 29, 1972.

Fire without smoke

BY WILFRID PICKARD

THE oil supply crisis has transformed the prospects for the smokeless fuel industry. Although the present labour problems in the mines could affect the situation in the short term, the smokeless fuel producers should experience a sustained rise in demand.

Smokeless fuel provides an energy source uninfluenced by Middle Eastern politics and with the interruptions to power supplies becoming a regular feature of the U.K. scene, it can provide heating totally under the control of the consumer. Similar fuel difficulties are being experienced in many overseas markets, and the next three or four years should see a return to the pre-1971 era of a suppliers' market in smokeless.

Of the three quoted companies, Coalite and Chemical Products has shown the greatest resilience through two mild winters which have generally played havoc with profitability. Annual capacity at its coalite plants has been increased 3½ times to 2m. tons since 1962. But since the completion of its £29m. expansion programme in September last year, trading conditions have been unfavourable.

The value of Coalite's output of oils and chemicals is highlighted by the dramatic rise in the price of imported oil feedstocks. C and C also has an 8.3 per cent. interest in Siebens (U.K.) which is exploring for oil and gas in the North and Celtic seas. At 23½p the shares yield 3.4 per cent.; the p/e is 14.6. Over the medium term it should move much closer to the previous peak of 47p.

After earning £2m. in 1970-71, National Carbonising's profits slumped to £246,000 the following year; and last time it suffered a loss of £1.3m. The shares, which sagged to 30p in August, are now standing at 66p. This recovery stems from speculative interest in NC's stake in various North Sea oil exploration consortia.

From now on, the group's trading should recover quickly. Despite the rise in the share price, there should still be plenty of steam left.

A similar collapse in profits occurred at British Benzol Carbonising. Last year saw a loss of £220,000, against 1970-71 profits of £660,000. Here again, the prospects of a turnround are not discounted in a share price of 14½p, compared with a high this year of 24p, and a 1971 peak of 61p.

Progress at Arenson

THIS week's sparkling results from St. Albans-based A. Arenson (Holdings) confirm that the ambitious programme to quadruple turnover to £10m. within three years is well under way. For the 12 months ended July 21, sales rose by 97 per cent. to £4.9m. Pre-tax profits were 72 per cent. ahead at £662,000 (£385,000). This apparent squeeze on margins is acceptable in view of the heavy costs of relocation and commissioning new capacity.

Between 1968 and 1972, Arenson expanded turnover at an annual rate of 20 per cent. During the same period the profits advance averaged 27 per cent. a year, rising from £100,000 to £384,000. At that point the group went all out with plans to step up production, to increase its share of the U.K. office equipment market and to sustain a major export drive.

With around 30 per cent. of the U.K. market in wooden equipment, the "President" range has pioneered the knocked-down type of desks. Occupying only one-sixth of the space required on assembly, this method reduces storage and transportation costs.

Last year, the Ryman Group's seating interests were integrated into the newly-styled engineering division. Office seats are expected to contribute £3m. out of the 1974-75 £10m. sales target. Golderstat, producers of high quality promotional material for industry was bought last year, strengthening group marketing and promotion, while its own services are being extended.

A new factory complex including warehouses, offices and showrooms is operating close to the original Arvin works. A former aircraft hangar has been converted into a sophisticated warehouse, taking full advantage of its 40 feet height.

The basic structure of overseas marketing has been established. In this connection, the k.d. type of product is ideal, particularly for direct lorry deliveries to Europe. Export growth is planned to increase from £300,000 to £5m. by 1975. Currently on a p/e of 14.5, the shares at 100p are undervalued.

WHAT THE BROKERS SAY

The U.K. wool industry has been strengthened by the elimination of surplus capacity and by an improvement in productivity. After a long period of poor trading, order books are now full. BEARDSLEY AND CO. points to its return as a fashionable fibre.

There are indications that demand may be entering a downtrend, but despite this, Hield Bros. and Illingworth Morris are rated in the hold category; Allied Textiles and Parkland Textiles are buys.

* * *

A major beneficiary from the higher capital spending programme envisaged for the electricity industry over the next five years should be British Insulated Callender's Cables. In the opinion of ROWE, SWANN the shares "are substantially underpriced and offer an outstanding investment opportunity."

* * *

As a new public company, Audiotronic Holdings will not suffer any restrictions on its dividend policy. MAGUIRE, ROY MARSHALL expects the good first half results to continue throughout the rest of the year. A major distributor of hi-fi and allied equipment, the group's operations have been strengthened by the acquisition of Adler.

* * *

A long period of sustained growth by Mothercare, at a compound rate of around 25 per cent., is anticipated by CHAS. W. JONES. Pre-tax profits in the first half were up by 37 per cent., based on 30 per cent. higher turnover. Overseas, the marginal loss was converted into a surplus of £228,000. The shares are highly rated, and rightly so, in the broker's view.

* * *

After several years of disappointment, Laporte Industries has turned round dramatically. Interim trading profits rose by 173 per cent. to over £3m. Demand for its chemical products is soaring which, in the opinion of SMITH RICE AND HILL, should enable it to bring its reserves of capacity into production. "The shares look set for continued recovery."

IN BRIEF

In the last four years, English Card Clothing has increased profits from around £200,000 to £967,000. Order books are full and the high capital expenditure of recent years is now paying off. Apart from card clothing machinery there is a wire division, and the recently acquired Gill's Cables is a useful diversification. Against an asset value of 57½p, the shares at 51½p yield 5.8 per cent. The p/e is only 7.8, which leaves room for improvement. Mr. Joe Hyman now controls around 20 per cent. of the equity.

Finance and the family

A stepmother's estate

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

My stepmother died recently and two nieces who live near her claim her estate and will not tell me whether she left a will. Are they entitled to do either of these things?

Unless the step-child has been adopted he has no claim on his step-mother's intestacy. There are ways of ensuring that notice is given of any will when it is sought to be proved (by a caveat entered at the Probate Registry) and you can search the public register to ascertain if a will has already been proved. If therefore you think you may be a beneficiary under your step-mother's will you may wish to consult a solicitor with a view to instructing him to pursue the matter.

Termination of a trust

In 1953 my mother created a discretionary trust with a life of 21 years for the benefit of my three brothers and myself, who are the trustees and beneficiaries of the fund. Next year we shall be faced with the break-up of the trust. What is the procedure please and what outside assistance will be necessary, assuming that all shareholdings are transferred to beneficiaries? What costs will be incurred?

If you do not employ professional advisers you will incur no costs as such on termination of the trust. There will be charges to capital gains and presumably duty to pay on the transfer of shares. No assistance is necessary, but it would of course be wise to obtain advice to confirm that the trust does indeed terminate when you think it does, and that there are no actual or potential beneficiaries or discretionary objects who are minors or not yet born.

A discretionary trust

I have an income from a family discretionary trust. The trustees have advised me that this will involve an estate duty liability, reaching the full liability in seven years. Could you tell me how to calculate the estate duty liability?

The liability will normally fall to be calculated on the proportion of the total income of the trust fund which is actually paid to you. The amount of the liability will depend upon the amount of the fund and the extent of the estate under which liability to duty arises. You should inquire of the trustees what the liability is thought to amount to.

Reservation of benefit

More than seven years ago a woman gave her fairly large house to her daughter, but she was allowed to continue to occupy a part of it. Will it be free of duty in her estate?

There was almost certainly a benefit reserved and the gift will be dutiable—however a concession might be made by the Estate Duty Office to the extent of the value of the part of the property not actually occupied by the donor.

Defining a boundary

About three years ago we told our neighbour that we proposed to put a few stone pillars to define our hitherto unmarked boundary, to which he enthusiastically agreed. Now we have a curt letter to say that two of the pillars are a few inches inside his land and must be removed forthwith. What should we do, please?

We think that you should resist any claim which your neighbour may make. There is a principle of law known as estoppel which would be a good defence to any claim which your neighbour might otherwise be able to establish—but we doubt if he could establish that the pillars were trespassing in any event. Moreover a recent decision in the Chancery Division in a case called Willson v. Greene [1971] 1 W L R 635 would also assist your case in showing that a general boundary may have been defined on the ground by oral agreement to marking by pegs or posts on the site. If you are sued, you should consult a solicitor and defend the action.

Permitted development

Referring to your reply of September 8 headed Permitted Development, I want to buy a derelict cottage in the Lake District National Park. Could I rebuild it without changing the original character, but without obtaining planning permission?

So long as your work of "rebuilding" can be characterised as alteration or repair, that is that the cottage has not been completely demolished, you should be able to effect the necessary works in the cottage without requiring planning permission. However, if you are not on the spot when you purchase, it would be wise to retain a surveyor to advise whether or not the works you propose will fall within the exemptions of the General Development Order 1973.

Removal of a root

There is a lime tree in the public road about 12 feet from my front garden, one of whose roots is showing in my front lawn. Is it the responsibility of the local council to remove the root? If not, am I entitled to remove it, charging the council with the cost, and bearing no responsibility for any ill effect that the tree may suffer as a result?

You may remove the root yourself regardless of the effect provided the tree is not subject to a tree preservation order *and* likely to be killed by the removal of the root. You cannot charge the council for your act of "self-help." If the tree is damaged but not destroyed, you are not liable.

Information for district valuer

A house was left to my wife by an aunt who died 15 months ago and she has recently been asked a number of questions on the present condition of the property by the District Valuer. Has he a right to this information, which seems to have nothing to do with the state of the property and its value at the date of death?

You would be entitled to require the District Valuer to take the property as it was at the date of death and to withhold information about events after that date. However it would be extremely unwise to refuse the information sought as it would not only suggest that you have something to hide, but also it would make it more difficult for you to seek to reduce the valuation proposed by the valuer if you cannot argue that he has been using material appropriate to a later date to arrive at his valuation.

Declaration of trust

A deceased is registered as absolute owner with a caution in favour of his widow of a house. In 1964 he executed a declaration of trust that he held the property upon protective trusts for the sole benefit of the widow during her life and declared himself a trustee. The deed was irrevocable. X has just taken out probate and will register this at the Land Registry and would like at the same time to transfer or assent to the vesting of the property in himself and the widow as trustees "for the purpose of giving effect to an appointment of the new trustee, that is, the widow." Will this be accepted by the registry? Will there be estate duty and if so how will it be assessed?

If the assent to the trustees contains an appointment of new trustees of the declaration of trust, or there is a separate prior deed of appointment, there is no reason why the new trustees should not be registered on production of the trust deed, probate, assent and deed of appointment (if separate). Duty will be assessed on the value of the testator's reversionary interest at the date of his death, that is, allowing the deduction of an actuarial valuation of the life interest.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible. No charge is made for this service except in relation to investment matters.

Settlement tax reclaim

I was under the impression that the 1969 Finance Act repealed Section 228 of the Finance Act 1952 so that claims for repayment of income tax are no longer possible for minors when they attain their majority, though claims are still competent in respect of income up to April 5, 1969. How do you reconcile this with your reply of September 8 when you state that some basic rate tax may be reclaimable? Could you also say on what settlement income that investment income is payable?

Our reply did not specifically refer to a trust fund for a minor that was contingent on her attaining the age of 21, which would, of course, have had to be set up before April 6, 1969. We referred to the income being "distributed" and when this happens the beneficiary will be able to reclaim some or all of both the investment income surcharge and the basic rate tax deducted by the trustees—if her personal circumstances permit in the year in which the income is distributed.

Your remarks in connection with section 228 of the Income Tax Act 1952 are correct.

With regard to your second question as to what settlement income the investment income surcharge is charged on, the actual wording of section 16 of the Finance Act 1973 is ". . . income which is to be accumulated or which is payable at the discretion of the trustees or any other person. . . ." Sub-section 2(b) excludes income from the charge if it is already treated as the income of the beneficiary or other person.

TAXATION AND THE INVESTOR

Taxation changes in Europe

BY JOHN CHOWN, TAXATION CORRESPONDENT

DURING the past few months many of our Common Market partners have made or proposed changes in their tax system. Now that we are all part of EEC, readers may welcome a summary on what has been going on.

Belgium

The Belgian tax reform act will apply to 1973 income or for accounting years beginning during 1973 for tax payers making up their accounts on a basis other than a calendar year.

The numerous surcharges applying to corporate incomes have been swept aside and instead companies will pay tax at 42 per cent. on their profits. Dividends paid to resident shareholders will attract an imputation credit as before, but the rate [has] now been adjusted to 36 per [cent.] of the distribution.

[Sm]all company relief is available where profits are less than [...] Frs.5½m. or about £60,000. [Th]is concession does not [apply] to subsidiaries or foreign[-controlle]d companies. Branches of [fore]ign companies pay 48 per [ce]nt., the higher rate being on account of the withholding tax that is payable when a subsidiary distributes profits to its foreign parent. The tax treatment of dividends received from Belgian and foreign companies has been rationalised.

Belgian tax rates are rather higher than might appear. This is because tax is paid on an anticipated basis in the course of the year as in the U.K. There is no compulsion to make this prepayment but to the extent to which tax is not paid on the first available date there is a penalty surcharge of 3.75 per cent., 7.5 per cent. or 15 per cent., according to the length of the delay. The application of the highest rate would bring the effective corporation tax rate up to 48.3 per cent. Having regard to present interest rates, the effective rate comes close to the U.K. rate.

Corporate capital gains are subject to tax at half rate. A considerably tougher line is now to be taken on property development profits. A disposal of buildings is fully taxable but a deduction of 5 per cent. of the acquisition price for each year beyond the first five years for which the land is held up to a maximum of 50 per cent. escapes tax. There are also a number of anti-avoidance measures which would contain no surprises to U.K. readers.

France

The French budget made a few minor changes in tax rates and closed a number of loopholes. In particular the Rente Pinay, a government security, ownership of which was disregarded for estate duty purposes, is to be repaid. This had developed into a major loophole on the basis of death-bed purchases. The same bonds in effect were used over and over again as they could be sold immediately after the death. The rate of long term capital gains tax is being raised from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. and there is a general tightening of the rules governing the distinction between trading gains and capital gains.

Germany

The German coalition claim to have agreed on proposals for tax reform. The changes affecting personal tax will come into effect on January 1, 1975; those affecting corporation tax a year later.

At present companies in Germany are taxed at 50 per cent. on retained profits and 15 per cent. on distributed profits plus in both cases two temporary surcharges. This is the so called "two rate" system considered in the U.K. but rejected in favour of the imputation system because of problems it created in Germany. Various reform proposals have been canvassed in recent years. It is now proposed to combine the virtues of the imputation and the two rate system.

Retained profits will be taxed at 56 per cent. and distributed profits at 36 per cent. The whole of this 36 per cent. will be allowed as an imputation credit against the personal tax liabilities of resident shareholders. This goes much further towards eliminating the double taxation of corporate distributed profits than either the British or the French imputation or the existing German systems. It will make little difference on balance to portfolio investors in German shares.

Foreign companies with German subsidiaries we hear pay rather more tax. In addition to the Federal company tax there is a Municipal trade tax at about 12 per cent., and although this is deductible for corporation tax, the effective German rate will be high by the standards of industrial countries.

Italy

The most far reaching proposals come from Italy. Last year Parliament debated tax reform and decided that the subject was too complicated for its deliberations. It therefore authorised the Government to bring in new tax legislation by decree and accordingly three decrees were published on October 16. The situation is equivalent to our 1972 Finance Bill being handed down as an Order in Council and passed into law without further debate.

The new structure of personal tax, corporation tax and local tax is scheduled to come into force on January 1, 1974, but knowing the Italians one would not be surprised if there were further delays or if indeed the decrees were held to be unconstitutional.

It is proposed that the present schedule of taxes may be replaced by the single personal tax subject to different rules of computation for different incomes. Local tax would be retained for five different authorities but would be calculated on the same basis. Each authority would be entitled to vary the rate with a maximum and minimum limit. In total the rate would fall between 9.4 per cent. and 14.7 per cent.

"Income from dependent employment," that is, wages and salaries, is not subject to local tax and there are other exemptions designed to avoid a double charge to local tax.

Local taxes will be allowed as a deduction in calculating the income liable to national personal tax. The latter is on a scale which rises in 32 steps from 10 per cent. to 72 per cent. Taking account of local tax, therefore, the effective rate could be as high as 76.12 per cent. Lest anyone thinks that Italy is now becoming a high tax country I hasten to add that this rate would only be reached for those with an annual income in excess of £400,000. Even taking into account local taxes the 50 per cent. bracket is reached only at an income of about £28,000.

Companies will be taxed at 25 per cent. and will also be subject to local taxes which in their case will be not allowed as a deduction. The effective rate will therefore be rather over 35 per cent. It seems that company dividends received will be fully subject to national income tax but they will be exempt from local tax thus giving an element of relief from double taxation. This reform does not fit naturally into EEC harmonisation trends.

Inevitably the three decrees contain a lot of detail about tax computation and various complications such as depreciation, capital gains, mergers and international income.

Netherlands

The Netherlands budget was mainly directed at the problem of inflation. It was immediately preceded by a revaluation of the Dutch Guilder, and it was announced in the Budget that price mechanism would be enforced in such a way that it would have to be reduced in line with the revaluation even though the traders concerned had already paid. There were some increases but the Government gave a pledge that they would not put up private consumer prices by more than 0.1 per cent.

The wealth tax is increased from 0.7 per cent. to 0.8 per cent. There are surcharges on estate duty and a study is being undertaken on the introduction of a personal capital gains tax. The proposal originally introduced by the previous government of an "investment incentive in reverse" for the overcrowded parts of the country is to be enacted. Power is to be taken to control mergers and there will be changes in the legislation affecting union activities. Formal recognition is apparently to be given of the right to strike.

Value Added Tax

So far we have dealt only with direct taxes. There have been no dramatic developmens in value added taxes although there have been a few minor changes in rates.

The most interesting development is in fact the proposal by Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg to harmonise the rates and coverage of VAT between those three countries. This is ahead of any general moves towards EEC harmonisation which at present the U.K. is rightly resisting. Each of the three countries will have the right to vary the rates in each category by up to 2 percentage points for budgetary purposes. The timetable has not yet been announced.

Insurance

Disablement cover

BY JOHN PHILIP

CONTINUING THE discussion of disablement cover that I began last week, perhaps this week we should start with the question—how much cover should be bought? While one answer and perhaps the only answer for many readers is as much as the would-be policy holder can afford, nevertheless it is not open to the would-be policy holder with a bottomless pocket to buy unlimited cover although he has unlimited insurable interest in his own life and health.

This is because insurers have a natural reluctance to provide the policy holder with weekly benefit at a level higher than his average weekly income, particularly as disablement insurance benefit is received by the policy holder, by the grace of the Inland Revenue, tax free until the end of the first full fiscal year of disablement.

On his proposal form, the purchaser of annual cover has to tell insurers his age and occupation but does not normally have to disclose what his average earnings are. Thus occupation serves as a rough guide to the underwriter enabling him to decide whether the proposer is asking for a reasonable level of benefit, or one beyond his income.

Scarcely any insurer selling annual cover is going to make further inquiries of the proposer who wants £20-£25 a week and with present day earnings many insurers will willingly provide up to £50 a week cover. It is beyond this that the proposer may have to show that his income justifies the benefit he wishes to buy.

The proposer under such annual disablement cover is normally precluded from going to other insurers to double up his cover by the declaration he usually has to sign saying that he has no other similar cover. When he gets his policy, usually he will find that it is subject to a condition that he must inform insurers if he buys any further disablement cover other than short period holiday travel insurance.

Proposal forms for non-cancellable disablement insurance (Permanent Health Insurance) vary considerably as do the nature of the supplementary inquiries the proposer may have to face. Here again for the most part, occupation is the yardstick that determines the amount of cover that can be bought and here again the proposer faces declarations and conditions about other disablement policies.

But there is one very considerable difference between PHI and annual policies—all insurers take positive contractual steps to fix financial limits beyond which claims will not be paid. Generally the maximum weekly benefit is limited to three-quarters of the average weekly earnings (though a few insurers have the lower limit of two-thirds), and this limit applies not only to benefit under the particular policy, but takes into account also benefit payable under any other privately arranged cover.

Some insurers go further and require the policy holder to put into the scales any benefit that is payable under the State insurance scheme. And there are other smaller variations. So in deciding how much benefit to buy the policy holder needs to be able to calculate how much he can actually claim. There is no point in paying premium for more cover than insurers will provide when the claim comes in.

Disability which gives rise to claim can be of two kinds, total and partial. But insurers' agreement really stops here, and taking total disability first there are many different definitions. In annual contracts many insurers provide benefit while the policy holder is totally disabled not only from his usual occupation but from any other for which he is fitted by training or experience.

With this definition, cover in annual policies is usually much wider than cover under PHI contracts—where many insurers pay benefit for example only where the policy holder is unable to follow his stated occupation and "is not following any other occupation." However, between these two extremes there are several differing definitions and the prospective policy holder must look carefully at the contract he is going to buy. Some insurers employ a dual standard definition, a narrow one for the first two years when the policy holder must not be at any work, and a wider one for longer term *disablement* when he is permitted to do some work so long as it is not work for which he is trained or qualified.

In annual contracts partial disablement benefit can be provided, subject to the policy holder being able to prove that he is unable to attend to a substantial part of his work.

Traditionally the benefit [...] payable has been fixed at [...] per cent. of the total disabl[e]ment benefit but in the partic[u]lar case the individual poli[cy] holder may be able [to] negotiate a higher percentage.

By contrast with a PHI poli[cy] there is usually no fixed pe[r]centage but rather a propo[r]tionate benefit clause, whi[ch] again is subject to min[or] variations from one insurer [to] another. With all these propo[r]tionate clauses insurers aim [to] reduce the total benefit payabl[e] in direct proportion to [the] extent that the policy holder h[as] been able to offset his loss [of] earnings by working part tim[e].

With all disablement polici[es] insurers accept that nowada[ys] policy holders are unlikely [to] stay within the U.K. for [...] weeks of the year. Annual d[is]ablement policies covering ac[ci]dents only usually provi[de] world-wide cover, but annu[al] policies covering sickness d[is]ablement as well, may [be] restricted to disability sustain[ed] in Europe and North Ameri[ca] and what might be called t[he] white countries or tempera[te] zones of the world.

In PHI policies insure[rs] employ a number of differe[nt] territorial limits, but whatev[er] these are, normal practice is [to] restrict benefit for disability i[n]curred outside those limits to [a] maximum of three months a[nd] sometimes six months. Som[e] insurers have clauses in the[ir] policies that the policy hold[er] who travels or resides outsid[e] the stated territorial limits f[or] more than 12 months may hav[e] his policy cancelled. Othe[rs] employ suspension of cove[r] clauses and require the polic[y] holder to submit to medic[al] examination on his return [to] this country before cover [is] resumed.

هكذا من الأجل

Motoring

Room for the family

BY WILLIAM KEEGAN

SONALLY, I expect no e from a car than the ability ransport my family from e to place without stopping repairs. You can count me of the *0 to 60 m.p.h. in* conds' brigade, and I'm not fussy about the wood lling.

go further, and confess to ultimate heresy that on whole I actually favour low- ormance cars. My basic irements are therefore y *simple: a reliable family* and a wireless to listen to n the rest of the passengers asleep.

ie further prerequisite: a bination of superstition and mazing run of bad luck on orways *makes me reluctant* rive any car which is not ooled. *Previous cars in my* ession have overheated as uently as the British omy; and, like the British omy, at the worst possible

ntil recently the basic re- ements have been fulfilled state cars. However, at the nning of this year we grew of our estate car, and the whelming weight of advice n all quarters *was* that we ld buy a Volkswagen robus.

part from the conventional robus, Volkswagen U.K. do a verted "*caravette*" version a sink and gas stove and s which can be rearranged orm a bed. A more expen- model offers an elevating as well. One has the option 1600 cc or 1700 cc engine, true to my *professed* re- ements, I chose the 1600 cc, which also happens to be cheaper.

A lot of our driving is done in London—central, at that—and I confess to having been worried about the somewhat forbidding bulk of the vehicle. *You can fit a Moulton bicycle into a Mini: the Volkswagen gives* the impression it will absorb a Mini complete with Moulton without *blinking*.

It turns out, however, to be no longer than my previous car —*14 feet 10 inches*—and, with the aid of wing mirrors and prominent back bumpers, to be reasonably easy to park. Moreover, the seats are well above the height of the average car seat, providing a grandstand view of impending traffic jams. The obverse of these advantages is that the seats are difficult to climb into, and cars overtaking on the *nearside are not easy* to spot.

It is possible to pile innumerable children and items of shopping into this vehicle without any trouble. The two rows of seats in the back can be *arranged facing*, with a table in the middle. The odd fight need not *disturb* the driver, there being a gap for the front passenger to retire to the rear and comfort or admonish at will. Indeed, there is so much passenger space that the engine seems almost an after-thought. The *battery, in particular*, is so tucked away that I have never been able to reach it.

Now for the bad news. One is familiar with the term "road-holding" but until I bought this car I had never grasped the full *significance*. *There have been* two occasions this year when I have thought of this car not so much in terms of its ability to hold the road as in its potential for taking to the air.

I am told that, given the shape and weight distribution of this model, one ought not to *be surprised* about the way it performs in high winds. Let me just say that when *this happens* high up on the M1—M6 Link at Spaghetti Junction, *it is useful* to be acquainted with Stirling Moss's cornering technique: a lot of work with the steering wheel is necessary to avoid drifting into the next lane.

At 6,000 miles, I have other *grumbles*. *The flexibility of the* rear seating arrangements is excellent, but it would be *useful* if seat-belts could be provided. People can be thrown around even with the most careful driving. The ventilation leaves a lot to be desired and in our case the wireless soon needed repairing.

Nevertheless, in very many ways *this car is* a large family's dream. We are not exactly hearty campers, but find the sink, water supply and gas stove extremely useful for picnics. Indeed, during the gas strikes earlier this year we virtually lived *in the car*. *I have found* no other large family car which is as convenient as this, although I intend to trade it in for the higher powered version in the not-too-distant future. But be warned: one has got to be prepared to travel at *low speeds* in those high winds.

The price? Well how's this for inflation? In February it cost me £1,507. Now, with VAT et alia, it is £1,774 plus a "currency surcharge" of £31.90.

Golf

U.S. circuit problems

BY BEN WRIGHT

PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA, Nov. 16.

THE NEXT few months will be absolutely crucial in deciding *the future of the American* professional golf tour and indirectly the future of world golf, since this is so much the most important tournament circuit of them all.

At the age of 66, USPGA *Commissioner Joe Dey, has* finally announced that he will not seek renewal of his original five-year contract, and it is going to be an unenviable task for his successor to maintain the progress that Dey has achieved.

Tragedy

The *tragedy of the situation* is that this marvellous man, *was lured away from a* happy job as director of the U.S. Golf Association—this country's equivalent to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews—at a time when the tournament players were in open revolt against the Professional Golfers' Association.

The players believed that they should have a greater share of control of their destiny and it is this attitude that has finally broken Dey's heart.

The final bitter blow to prob*ably the greatest administrator* golf has known came when his scheme to set up 15 major events at the end of the season culminating in a championship of the Tournament Players' Division, in which it would be mandatory for all the leading players to appear, was thrown out by those players in question.

It will be a terribly hard job *for Dey's successor because the great man has steered the tour from a prize kitty of* $5m. in 1968 to $8.5m. this year, but there are signs that all is not well behind the scenes.

The first World Open Championship currently being played here has been made to *look rather ridiculous. The title* is a singularly hollow one because the British and U.S. Open champions, Tom Wieskopf and Johnny Miller, USPGA champion Jack Nicklaus, and the great Lee Trevino, chose to stay away. It is quite clear that sponsors will not continue to *tolerate such boycotts*, and there is a very real threat that the players are *in danger of* murdering the goose that laid the golden egg.

The players do not like the idea, as poor Dey has found to his cost, but eventually they are going to have to accept much stricter discipline if they are to keep the sponsors happy.

The tragedy of the whole business is that the leading players are only interested in taking from the game, rather than giving anything in return. For instance, at the end of the season, Nicklaus will have *played in only 15 tournaments* on the American circuit this year besides the three major championships here, and this is plainly not enough. There are 47 tournaments in all, and while no-one would suggest that Nicklaus should play them all, it seems important that all the players should be forced to play in at least half the tournaments being staged.

The great Arnold Palmer, who *is now 44 years old, is currently* playing in his 22nd tournament of the season, and one cannot but admire such loyalty. But Palmer is the kind of man who would hate not to be playing, in any case, whereas Nicklaus is very much the reverse.

He can take golf or leave it alone, and such is his talent that he can get away with it.

Possible successor

So who will be *Dey's successor?* Practically anyone one cares to name is seriously considered here in the bars and lounges of this lovely resort.

Deane Beman, who was British Amateur Champion in 1959, and still runs a highly profitable insurance business, is everybody's idea of the favourite, but he could be hurting his own case *by pushing it so hard*. Beman is unashamedly campaigning to get the job. He would be a popular choice because he is intelligent, well-educated and extremely level-headed: He has served a term on TPD Policy Board, but for reasons best known to himself *he is not a member of the PGA.* This also could go against him.

Another *favourite choice of* those who are wagering on the outcome is the current tournament director, Jack Tuthill, a former FBI man, with an iron fist in a slim velvet glove. Tuthill has no favourites, and as a *silent strong man*, would be sensible choice in the eyes of *many, in that it is well-known* that the players need a lot of careful, but firm handling.

Other players who have been mentioned in connection with the job are Gardner Dickinson and Bob Rosburg.

One thing is certain. Whoever gets the job will be im*mediately assailed on all sides* by players who believe that the recent treatment of Peter Oosterhuis was disgraceful.

It will hardly have escaped the notice of anyone interested in golf that Oosterhuis, having given *his all* in the Ryder Cup Match, was forced to fly out here to Pinehurst to pre-qualify for the chance to go to the USPGA School, although his wife was expecting a baby, and indeed gave birth in her husband's absence.

Not a single player to whom I have spoken on the subject agrees with such a system. They all, without dissent, say that Oosterhuis *should never have* been subjected to such an indignity. *He actually failed to* re-qualify, and so his intentions to play on the American circuit were postponed by at least a year.

Most of the players to whom I have spoken admit that if a man is good enough to play in the Ryder Cup match, he is good enough to attend the school without pre-qualifying. Dave Marr, *a former* USPGA champion, will put forward a suggestion that there should be several zones outside America in which the performances of the local players will automatically qualify them for the school and make them exempt from such tiresome pre-qualifying.

Thus, Oosterhuis, who has won the Vardon Trophy for the last three seasons in Britain, for the consistency of his per*formances, would automatically* go straight to the school.

Back to school

One other thing is certain. The body of opinion here is just as firm that Tony Jacklin, hav*ing forfeited his Players' Card*, should be forced to go back to the school *if he ever intends to* compete on the American tour again.

The situation *is* not at all promising on any side. The sponsors are every bit as militant as the players, and the latter are *more than ever con*vinced that they must keep out foreign opposition at all costs. Of course, there are notable exceptions in this area, one of them being Nicklaus, who was furious that Oosterhuis will not be playing on the American tour next year.

Bridge

Fighting for the crown

BY E. P. C. COTTER

TWO HANDS from recent championship matches have points of bidding and play which I am sure you will find interesting. Here is the first, dealt by East with North-South vulnerable:

N.
♠ 8 7 4
♡ Q 8
◇ A Q 9 8 7 5
♣ A J

W.
♠ Q 3
♡ J 5
◇ K 6 4 3
♣ Q 8 6 5 3

E.
♠ 6 5
♡ K 9 7 4 2
◇ J
♣ K 10 9 7 4

S.
♠ A K J 10 9 2
♡ A 10 6 3
◇ 10 2
♣ 2

After a pass from the dealer South opened the bidding with one spade, to which North re*plied with two diamonds. South* correctly rebid three spades, and North made an advance cue-bid of four clubs, which was doubled by East for a lead. This was passed up to North who raised his partner to five spades, and South's six spades ended the auction.

West dutifully led the five of clubs, won on the table, and a *spade was led to the Ace*. Now the declarer led the diamond ten and finessed dummy's Queen, on which East's knave dropped. A second spade was led and the Knave finessed, losing to the Queen. This is a form *of safety play—not a sure trick* safety play, because it does not ensure the contract if the finesse wins. It is, in fact, a play which I christened the Unwanted Finesse, because you hope it will lose. Once the finesse had lost, the declarer was in no trouble. He won the *club return, took another* diamond finesse, cashed the Ace and ruffed a diamond, returning to the table with the eight of trumps to enjoy the set up diamonds and make the slam.

If the spade finesse wins, *things are not so easy, though* the declarer has more than one chance. He draws the trump, and plays a low heart to dummy. If West has the King, there is no further problem: if he has the Knave, the contract will be made on a squeeze, unless, as happens here, the Knave drops on the second lead.

The next deal is more complex:

N.
♠ A 7 4
♡ 8 6 5
◇ Q 10 7 3
♣ Q 4 2

W.
♠ Q 10 6 5 3 2
♡ —
◇ J 4 2
♣ A J 9 3

E.
♠ 9 8
♡ K J 7 3 2
◇ A 9 8
♣ 8 7 6

S.
♠ K J
♡ A Q 10 9 4
◇ K 6 5
♣ K 10 5

East dealt at Game to North-South, and South bid one no trump, which West overcalled with two spades. North said two no trumps and raised South's three heart rebid to *four hearts, which was doubled* by East.

West led the spade five which was won by the Knave. The declarer now cashed his King of spades, played a club to the Queen, and eventually went one down.

Let us play it more carefully. *It is a mistake to cash the spade* King—instead we play a diamond to the ten and Ace. East returns a club, and we play the King, which loses to the Ace, and West sends back a diamond. We win in hand with the King and play another diamond to the Queen.

Now we lead dummy's eight of hearts, which East covers with the Knave, and our Queen wins. We cross to the table with a club to the Queen and lead the six of hearts, East covers with the seven, and we win with the nine. Now we can return to dummy with the carefully preserved King of spades, which is overtaken, and lead the thirteenth diamond. East has to ruff small and we overruff.

At this stage we have made *eight tricks, and we have* the Ace and ten of trumps sitting over East's King and three. We cut adrift with our losing club and are about to claim the last two tricks, when East, if he is a good chess player, resigns.

Travel

Arctic Norway's big "catch"

BY SYLVIE NICKELS

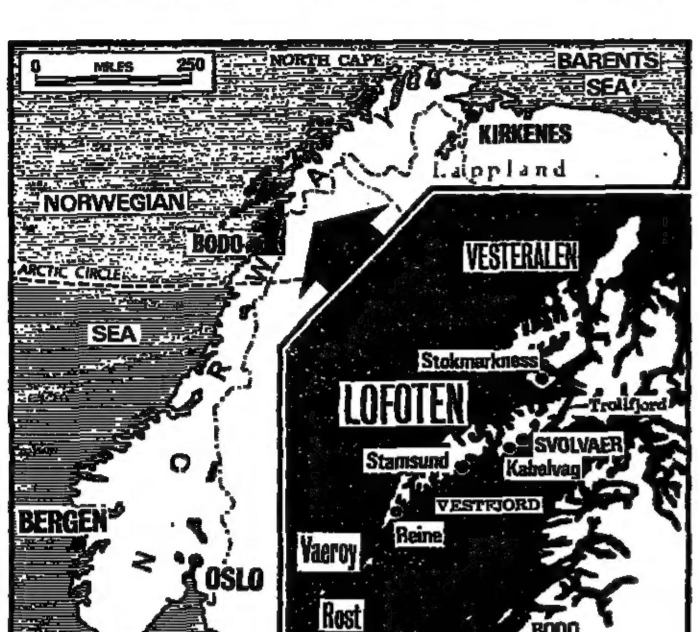
THE CROSSING by ship to the Lofoten Islands from Bodø, four hours away on the Norwegian mainland, leaves a firm impression. Behind you, the serrated mainland peaks cut into the sky. Ahead, across the broad waters of the Vestfjord, the great Lofoten Wall appears gradually to gain in height. It is not a wall, of course, but a massive backbone of mountains, rising to over 3,700 feet, marvellous in shape and character, strung out across a series of islands whose narrow and intricate dividing waterways barely seem to interrupt the continuity of the land.

Earlier I had visited the Lofotens in summer and been impressed. Now, in the crisp white dress of early spring, 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle, the scene was breath-catching. The aim, however, was not merely to admire the scenery. Like many people, I had heard of the Lofoten Fisheries, known in Viking times and which provide one of the world's largest harvests of cod.

The season is from late January until late April. My destination was Svolvaer, the main centre of the islands and also the seat of the Fisheries "government", democratically elected by the fishermen and with a legal code all of its own.

The Lofoten cod or *skrei*, to which all this organisation is dedicated, travels the great distance from the Barents Sea to spawn in these waters. Their numbers vary considerably from year to year, but a recent season produced a catch of 90,000,000 kilos. And that is a lot of cod. In the past, up to 30,000 men might be involved in the Lofoten Fisheries. To-day, partly because of unpredictable catches, partly because of faster craft and more sophisticated methods, the Fisheries scene is not what it was. Nevertheless, five or six thousand men in 1,800-2,000 vessels buffeting on the swell beneath a coastline of near-sheer mountains presents a very remarkable sight.

Each morning, the fishing fleets leave the Lofoten villages at a given signal, the hour becoming progressively earlier as the mid-winter dark recedes. Most return in the afternoon to process the catch, sort the nets, before going off in the evening to set them again when, once more, the sea becomes a bobbing pattern of orange and red markers.



Apart from processing for fish meal or oil (a pungent business), the cod may be salted and become klipp-fish, or air-dried into stockfish. Freezing and canning have also developed in recent years. Air drying begins immediately on sprawling triangular-shaped racks which are a familiar feature of the north Norwegian landscape. By mid-June, the stockfish are ready for domestic use or export to the Mediterranean and Africa where, along with klipp-fish, it is an essential part of the local diet. The *bacalhau* you may sample in Portugal probably had its origins in these Arctic waters.

For the local people, the fisheries season provides good sport as well. For the visitor, some introductions are necessary, though Britons will not find these hard to come by in an area where the Shetland Bus and the naval ventures of 1941 are still remembered recent history.

Indeed, the Lofotens have attracted the British since well before the turn of the century when it was the mountaineers who came—men of the calibre of Cecil Slingsby—to achieve many first-time ascents of these testing Arctic peaks. In late spring, it is the turn of the ornithologists, attracted by the rich variety of bird life, especially during the migrations. The outer islands, such as Vaeroy and Rost, are the most rewarding in this respect, and can be reached by sea or by air.

More recently the artists have come, finding the combination of the Lofotens' colourful economy against such a backdrop irresistible. There is an Artists' House with accommodation and studios in Svolvaer, and more recently an art school.

Even more recent is the vogue of the rorbu, formerly fishermen's cabins now made available to visitors during summer. The amenities are simple, but the cost low. Usually a rowing boat is included; a motor launch and fishing tackle are easily hired. There are hotels in main villages, though hardly in the luxury class. Even better are some of the guest houses, many of them bright and modern and always ready to arrange fishing trips. Ramberg Gjestgiveri at Ramberg is such a one. Freshwater anglers will find good sport, too; notably trout.

Independent travellers should count £8-£12 a day full board, unless self-catering. The Lofotens are reached in three days by sea from Bergen, or there are now feeder air links between Stamsund (Lofotens) and Bodø (mainland), from which regular flights reach Bergen or Oslo in about 1¼ hours.

All the main islands are joined by car and passenger ferries, offering Arctic island-hopping at any time. Using these and local bus services, the archipelago can be explored from end to end. Thus do you come across warm-coloured villages clinging to the brink of the land, such as Nusfjord, Hamnøy, Reine, Kabelvåg—the latter the Lofotens' oldest community, near Svolvaer. Such exploration can be combined with use of the regular coastal service whose modern ships link Bergen, via the North Cape, with Kirkenes, calling daily at two Lofoten ports (Stamsund and Svolvaer) and Stokmarknes in the neighbouring Vesterålen archipelago.

Further information: Norwegian National Tourist Office, 20, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5NE.

Gardening

Nerine bowdenii and Amaryllis belladonna

BY A. G. L. HELLYER

THIS HAS been the best year I can remember for Nerine bowdenii and Amaryllis belladonna, both of which obviously loved the warm, sunny summer and responded with a marvellous display of bloom. I shall particularly remember two borders of nerine in small front gardens both jammed with bulbs each of which must have been carrying a flower stem, so solid was the display of rose-pink bloom.

Glorious blooms

Even in my cold, damp Sussex garden a group of Amaryllis belladonna bulbs that has done little more than produce leaves for the past 20 years, and which I had actually determined to dig up and transport to sunnier Jersey, has suddenly forestalled me by producing seventeen glorious heads of bloom which have only just been destroyed by frost.

There is no doubt in my mind that Nerine bowdenii is sufficiently hardy to be grown almost anywhere in the British Isles. I recollect a particularly fine bed of it at Parsifal Hall, high up on the Yorkshire moors, as cold a spot as one would be likely to find anywhere in England, and though I did not see them actually in bloom I was assured that they did flower regularly.

Exactly how much frost Amaryllis belladonna will survive I do not know, though I suspect that it is distinctly less hardy than the nerine. All the same I saw a fine group in flower in a Chelmsford garden this autumn which from its size must have been there for many years. It would be surprising if during that period it had not had to endure temperatures fairly close to zero Fahrenheit in chilly Essex.

The real problem with both these beautiful plants is to get them sufficiently baked each summer to ensure that flower buds are formed within the bulbs before growth recommences in the autumn. All the plants I have described are growing in sunny borders beneath walls which must reflect quite a lot of the sun's warmth on to them.

My own amaryllis bulbs were opened up to the sun last winter by some fairly drastic pruning of shrubs and of clematis that had previously tended to shade them. They have also a lot of wood ash, so it may be that the potash in this has contributed to the display, for every gardener knows how important this plant food is in promoting flowering and ripening.

From all this it would seem that anyone with a sheltered south-facing border might try either or both of these beautiful plants with excellent prospects of success. No doubt it would help to feed them each spring, when they are making most of their growth, with a high potash fertiliser of the type commonly sold for fruiting tomatoes, and to cover the bulbs in July and August with cloches or hand lights to trap all the sun heat available.

Better in town

Town gardeners in smokeless areas could be even better placed than country gardeners since the temperature in towns is usually two or three degrees higher than in the surrounding country, thanks to the warmth radiated by buildings.

For those who are unfamiliar with Nerine bowdenii (and I have been surprised to find how many have asked me what it is) it may be as well to explain that it is not an inferior version of the greenhouse nerines. Indeed by any objective standard it must be considered a finer plant, longer and stronger in stem, with larger flowers and flower heads, and a superior rate of increase.

Only on the score of colour range does it lose to them, and though it has been crossed with N. sarniensis and other species to extend this range, all the resulting seedlings seem to be inferior in garden qualities. But one form of N. bowdenii which originated at Abbotswood, Stow on the Wold, at least 50 years ago is outstandingly good. Named after its raiser, Fenwick's Variety, it is deeper in colour and even longer in stem. Unfortunately, though it has been known for so long, it remains a scarce plant.

Amaryllis belladonna has been similarly neglected in Europe, even the Dutch growers having done little with it. Australian and Californian gardeners have shown greater enterprise and have produced some notable variants with larger, fuller, more deeply coloured flowers some of which lack the pale pink or white stripe typical of the species.

They may well be hybrids, but if so they must be with other genera since there is only one species of amaryllis (the greenhouse bulbs that sometimes pass under that name are really hippeastrums). Certainly hybrids with crinum, known as crinodendrum, do exist and at the Southport flower show this summer a splendid hybrid with nerine, named amarine, was exhibited by van Tubergen of Haarlem. But my guess is that at least some of the American amaryllis are simply selections from the wild plant which can show considerable variation when raised from seed.

Useful varieties

This variation extends to flowering time as well as to size and colour and in my Jersey garden, where amaryllis grow and flower freely, I have some which are in bloom in August and others which do not even begin to spear through the soil until late September. Such variations are useful to extend the flowering season and some might well be selected and offered separately by bulb growers.

Saleroom

Jewels fetch £2.63m.

A SALE of jewels realis[ed] £2,637,815 at Sotheby's in Zuri[ch] yesterday.

An antique emerald penda[nt] with the pear-shaped emerald [in] a gold mount enamelled [in] Jaipur palette, the border wi[th] 22 diamonds, sold for £177,8[..] (Horowitz).

A cabochon octagonal emer[ald] (71.43 carats) fetched £78,9[..] and an emerald-cut diamo[nd] (20.60 carats) mounted as a ri[ng] with diamond shoulders £78,3[..]

A collection of Indian Ro[yal] silver furniture included a 1[9th] century silver Royal thro[ne] which sold for £10,526, a raja[h's] State howdah for £6,578 and [a] richly-decorated silver trip[od] table for £4,605.

Sotheby's first sale in Ho[ng] Kong, of important Chin[ese] ceramics and archaic bron[zes] realised £982,610 a wo[rld] record for a day's sale of t[his] kind.

A Ming flower-shaped bo[wl] went for £190,000 to Mayuman[..] who also gave £160,000 for [a] Ming blue-and-white saucer di[sh].

One of the coin world's clas[sic] rarities, the Russian one-and[-a-]half rouble 1836 silver co[m]memorative medal, was, [at] £2,292, top item in the seco[nd] day of the B. A. Seaby sale [in] New York. The coin shows t[he] Tsar Alexander on the obve[rse] and his wife and seven childr[en] on the reverse.

The second day of the sa[le] held in association with the N[..] Netherlands Coin Company [of] America, totalled £85,864 bri[ng]ing the total to £286,200. [A] number of coins fetched w[ell] over £1,000 each.

A 16th-century Dutch painti[ng] with initials CVH and date 15[..] fetched 25,000 gns. at Christie['s]. The painting, depicting t[he] Holy Family, and believed to [be] by Cornelis van Haarlem, ma[de] top price in a £251,681 sale [of] Old Master paintings.

A Phillip's silver sale realis[ed] £17,133.

هكذا منت الأجمل

How to spend it on her this Christmas by Lucia van der Post

Crisis Comforters

...N'T, personally, think of ...ng nicer to find awaiting ... Christmas morning than ... As the economic winds ... chillier, as fuel shortages ...head, as even Blue Chip ... have let us down, what ... comforting, more ...ous than a really furry ...

...d to think that furs were ...beguilingly pretty, flatter-...atus symbols for the rich. ... I used the very first real ...all I ever had to buy one. ... discovered that they were ...warmer, softer and lighter ...any cloth coat that I'd ever ...nything to do with.

...days furs are even more ...ing than ever before. No ... is it a market just for ... middle-aged ladies who ... something comfortably ...ionable that will keep its ... and go on forever. Several ... and bright furriers have ...d up new markets by ... fur out of the daunting ...ive, dowager world and ...g their shops much more ...rdinary shops and using ...ith a lot more gaiety and ... less awe.

...a Furs is typical of the ...f the go-ahead furriers. An ...tablished furrier at 13/14, ... Castle Street, London, it ...un by a husband and wife ... and when the wife died ...nly three years ago their ... daughter, Diana Anker, ...n her mid-twenties came ...r father's rescue and took ... the designing.

...very first thing she did ...o dye a lot of white fox ...electric blue, soft pink, ... green and so on. What ...nker had to say is not on ...d but we gather it wasn't ... he'd originally had in ...

... Anker's collection was an ...ous success and from it ...emerged this fur jacket, ...graphed right, which has become a young classic. Designed for shaggy furs (and in the photograph Crossfox, a very rare cross between silver and red fox, was used) it was just what young people wanted to wear—not a formal, dowagerish coat, it's a mid-hip jacket, with slightly high fortyish sleeves, that looks marvellous with trousers, long skirts, evening wear. It's one of those designs that just goes on and on selling and now Femina Furs make them in electric blue fox (sensational for evening wear), red fox, silver fox, white fox and in the less expensive furs like lamb and coney. In Crossfox it is £550, in silver, red or blue it is £440. The turban is £99.

For those who can't afford coats or jackets of fur there are hats (Femina Furs do a particularly nice dark brown seal coney brimmed hat for £25) and scarves.

K. West furs of 21, Heddon Street, London, W.1, have a selection of kid scarves in rust, black, grey, dark brown, light brown, which are about 70 in. long, 8 in. wide, and cost £18. They also have a beautiful double-sided, long red fox fur scarf for about £160. If you want an idea of the sort of thing they do write off for their illustrated brochure.

Fenwicks of Bond Street, London, W.1, have real foxtail scarves, 5 feet long, for £9.90, as well as fake raccoon scarves between 5 feet and 6 feet long for £3.75. They also do fur hats and have a lovely red fox one for £35.

Finally, the really latest look in fur this winter is for neat bomber jackets. In real fur they are mostly fairly expensive but Sheila Worth is importing a range of French fake fur jackets that seem to have the warmth and the softness of the real thing and sell for £40.

'Forties'-style jacket and turban in Crossfox from Femine Furs

The jacket in our picture is meant to resemble chinchilla (it is a nice pale beige) and has dark brown ribbing, but it can also be fake white coney with white ribbing, or fake black mink with black ribbing. Sizes 10—14, from Sheila Worth shops at 95 New Bond Street, 27A, Sloane Street, 39, Fairfax Road, Swiss Cottage, 61 High Street, St. John's Wood and 23, Kendall Street, Hyde Park, London, W.1.

...fur 'bomber' jacket from Sheila Worth. *Martin Chaffer*

Something old something new

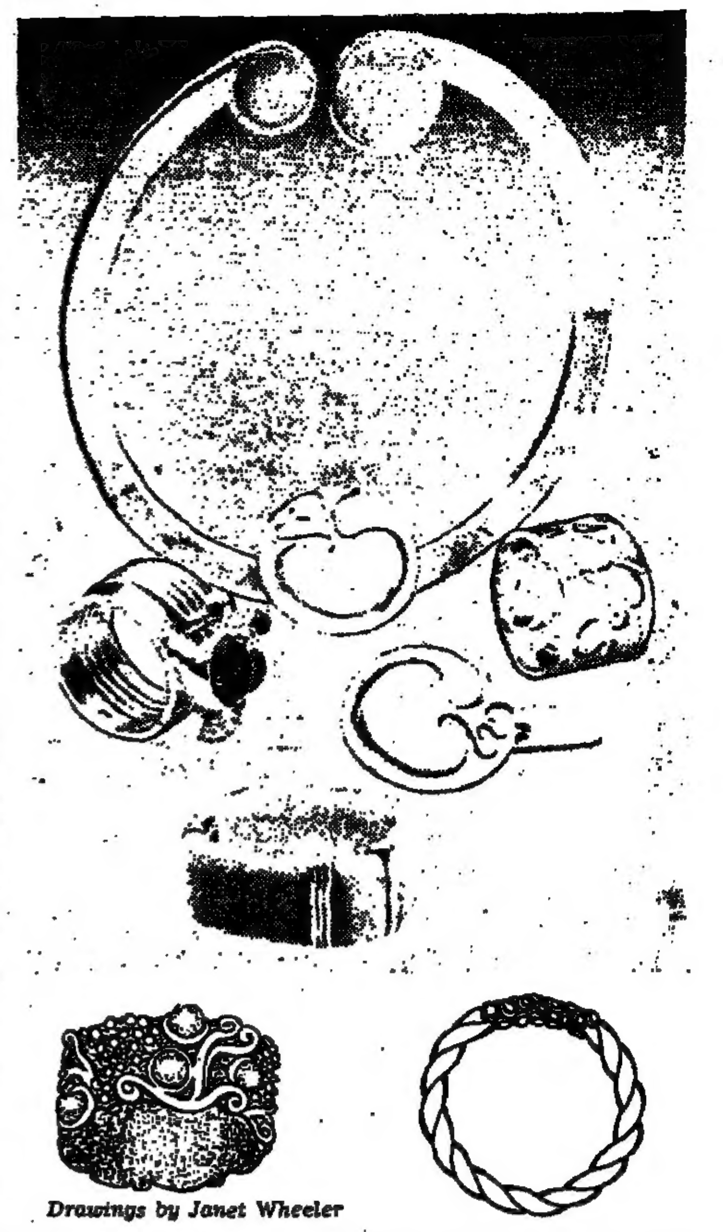
JEWELLERY has several unbeatable advantages when it comes to giving presents. Firstly, there is no bother about fitting. Everything except rings (which are ordered according to size) fits everybody. Secondly, it always manages to convey an extra degree of fondness. Nobody gives jewellery as a token, duty present. And finally, it's just such a pleasure to wear and almost every jeweller will change or alter jewellery that isn't quite what the recipient wanted.

If old, antique jewellery is what you like three of the best sources in London that I know are Richard Ogden, 28/29 Burlington Arcade, London, W.1., N. Bloom and Sons, 153 New Bond Street, London, W.1. and Cameo Corner, Museum Street, London, W.C.2.

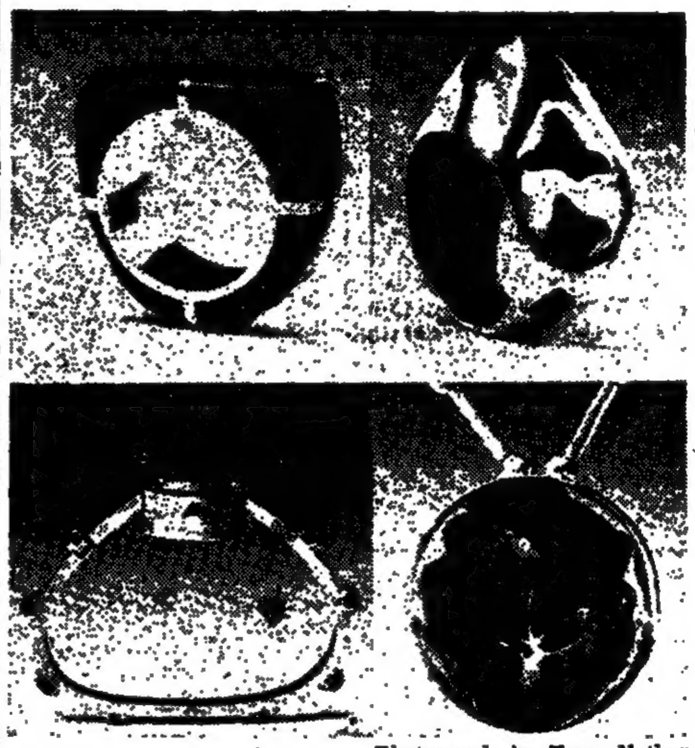
For modern jewellery there is an almost embarrassingly rich choice, so many talented young designers, do we have. Booty Jewellery, at 14/18 Holborn, London, E.C.1. and at 9/9a New Bond Street, London, W.1. have done a lot to promote young designers, and this week I've chosen to illustrate the work of two new designers.

In the photograph, at the right, is the work of Carol Leonard. She is 25, studied at Hornsey College of Art. At the back in our photograph, propped upright, is a bracelet of silver with an ivory disc and an agate stone at each end. £20. Right in the front is an ivory ring with bands of gold and silver running through it. £28. Middle left is a group of six silver rings designed to be worn together. Three of the rings have little gold blobs embellishing them, the other three have a Cornelian and two brown agate stones. £30. The cuff-links in the middle are of silver and gold with a sinous cut-out jig-saw pattern, £30. The ring is in a similar vein, made of silver and 9 carat gold and with a curving jig-saw pattern winding its way round the ring. £28.

MIKI KOLKER does jewellery that manages to look both very modern and highly decorative in the manner of some of the best Victorian jewellery. Most of her rings are made using the lost wax process which gives the rings an unusual slightly rough look. The two rings drawn here are typical of her work. They are both in 18 carat gold. The ring, near right, has four mixed colour pearls and a lapis stone and costs £70. The ring, far right, is much narrower, less ornate, having no stones just a twisted band and a little decorative finish. It is £28.



Drawings by Janet Wheeler



Photograph by Tony Nathan

ALIX MURRAY is a young jeweller who studied first at the Sir John Cass College, School of Art, and after a short time spent travelling is now back in this country trying to establish herself as a jeweller. As she works entirely on her own, both designing and making the jewellery herself, she obviously can't take on an enormous number of commissions at once but what she likes to do is to design to a specific brief, for a specific person. She produces detailed drawings for approval and then makes up the required piece. I like her work very much indeed—particularly her experiments with resin which give rich, strange patterns when combined with silver. She has several of these resin rings already made and in stock. Alix Murray is to be found during the day at The Works, 17, Adeney Road, London, S.W.6.

To give you some idea of her work here are four of her latest designs. Top row far left, a ring combining dark green resin and silver, £12. A domed ring made from silver embellished with ruby red resin. £18.

Bottom row far left, a watch in 18-carat gold made for herself. The gold is embellished with garnets and one garnet contains the clasp. This particular watch is not for sale but a similar one would now cost about £350, the price of gold having risen to spectacular heights. Near left: A silver chain and pendant, the pendant being a very decorative combination of silver and black resin with a silver picture seeming to be embedded in the semi-transparent resin, £35.

. . . and for fun

A FEW miscellaneous suggestions, neither precious nor outrageously expensive. For an elderly aunt or invalid there's a ravishingly pretty collection of Porthault linen at Nina Campbell of 64 Pimlico Road, London, S.W.1. The pillow and pillow case that is drawn, below left, is £13.75 (25p p+p) complete and it's just one of the many flowered patterns that they offer.

Harrods of Knightbridge have some marvellous umbrellas, all very sturdy, with strong wooden handles and gaily patterned fabric. The one we show is bright yellow cotton with brown bicyling figures. It's £14.75 (35p p+p).

The General Trading Company of 144, Sloane Street, London, S.W.1. has, as always, a very good selection of presents. This great hold-all comes in bright red canvas with yellow animal frieze and striped shoulder straps. Two feet long, one foot deep it is £14.45 (p+p 50p).

Drawings by Sumiko

HALCYON DAYS is a small, delectable shop at 14, Brook Street, London, W.1, which is chiefly known because one of its owners, Mrs. Susan Benjamin, was largely responsible for reviving the old art of enamelling. Her shop always has a large collection of enamels, old and new. I personally prefer the genuinely old ones and find her collection of 18th and early 19th century enamels very appealing.

However, Halcyon Days is also a good source of other unusual presents and there are some fine modern designs to be found as well. There is a good, illustrated brochure which shows a large selection of what they do, so write off for that if you live out of London.

At the moment she has some beautifully-made and finished miniature travelling alarm clocks. To give you an idea of their size, they have been photographed with a 50p piece beside them. The clocks themselves have all been made by Pontifa of Switzerland. From left to right: a faux lapi. lazuli enamel case, 1¼ inches square, £36.50. Brown baby crocodile case, 1¾ inches by 1¼ inches, £39.50 and the black calf case is 2¼ inches by 1¾ inches, £35.

Bottom picture shows some fine enamelled silver designs by Celia Over whose work was exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the big Crafts exhibition last June. The designs take four weeks to order and could be asked for in turquoise, yellow or amethyst. The letter rack, which is enamelled on both sides, is £85, the letter opener, 6 inches long, is £38 and the box for pills or paper clips is £40.

Any of the items pictured can be sent by post for 20p p&p.

Property and housing

City know-how on the farm

BY JOE RENNISON

MARK TWAIN'S remark about investing in land being a good thing because they don't make it any more applies with greater force in Britain than in most other countries in the world. We are a small country and already have far too many people milling around on the surface and that surface is certainly not going to get any bigger while the population will. So more to the point about investing in land is what do we do with it when we have it? Making a quick buck out of a few acres in the short term is shortsighted if those acres are not being put to the best possible use so that the whole community can benefit in the longer term.

A recent Government announcement which, in the opinion of one expert on the subject, has not received the attention it deserved should give a new incentive to the scientific approach to land use. Putting forward the Government's new proposals for forestry finance last month, Agriculture Minister Mr. Anthony Stodart made the proviso that before approving grant aid schemes in future the Forestry Commission will check with the Agricultural Departments to see if the land can reasonably be released from agricultural use. It will also check with local authorities on the amenity aspects of the proposed woodlands and the pattern of planting will have to allow for the integration of agricultural and amenity uses.

Scientific use

This statement is, according to Brian Howell, the marketing director of Matthews Wrightson Land, the greatest incentive we have had this century towards a policy of integrated land use. He sees it as the first serious intention to apply scientific land use principles and one that was desperately needed. Since the abolition of rural development boards, there has been no single body that has had an interest in the proper use of the land.

Of course MWL has a vested interest in seeing the establishment of such principles. The company and its subsidiaries are investors in land in a big way. Basically what they do is to buy up land on behalf of investment clients and manage that land through one of their subsidiaries, Fountain Farming, Fountain Forestry and Fountain Amenity. The land is leased back to one of these companies by the client and the company decides how best the land should be used. The client receives a rent for the land plus a hedge against inflation plus the estate duty advantages connected with agricultural land.

Now many people would totally disagree with this form of investment. The very mention of these City men moving in on the sacred acres is like waving a red flag in front of many a farmer. Accusations against such deals are that they are robbing the honest farmer of his living, forcing up the price of land to unnatural heights and through those rises making it impossible for the ordinary farmer to pass on his farm to his son.

Now is not the time to get involved in that particular argument. The point is that MWL, since it has its own and its clients' money at stake, has evolved some useful techniques in management and has decided views on how the land should be used to the best advantage. "It is hypocrisy to bemoan the annual loss of 50,000 acres of agricultural land if we are not properly managing the other 50m. acres," claims Mr. Howell.

He sees a glimmer of hope in the Government plans that at last we will see the scientific approach to the problem. But if it is not handled or staffed properly the scheme could come to nothing. Under its plans the Government intends to give wider scope to the Forestry Commission's regional advisory committees, bringing in representatives from agriculture, local planners and amenity interests.

A good move, agrees Mr. Howell, but will it get off the ground? He sees the need for a determinedly radical approach by the committees with men trained in land use techniques taking control: otherwise such committees could simply degenerate into wrangling matches with each interest sticking to its own case. While paying tribute to the superb work the Forestry Commission has done in its own fields, he argues that it will need to grow horizontally in its structure and have wider expertise and power of it is to succeed in its new task.

Naturally members of MWL would be eager to serve on these committees except when they are discussing a project in which MWL is involved.

Most suitable

What we get out of the land are basically food, wood and recreation. It is a question of deciding which of these—or all—are most suitable for a particular stretch of territory. This approach from basic principles is, Mr. Howell claims, what has been totally neglected in this country. The claims of all must be examined — including the sometimes hysterical over-reaction of the environmentalists — and firm action taken. The environmentalists should be pleased by the new official attitude since if anything it will mean that more of our countryside is protected and at the same time opened up to the public.

Mr. Howell gave me a couple of examples of projects that MWL has undertaken and where the land use has been changed to the benefit, he thinks, of all concerned.

Up in the Highlands of Scotland they bought late this summer 6,500 acres of grouse moor. This had been running down for years and the bags were down to about one tenth of what they were at the beginning of the century and there did not seem to be any way of arresting the decline. Something had to be done. It had not been thought suitable for wood but MWL discovered that new techniques in forestry have made it possible. It is now intended to plant forest on about two thirds of the land. As the forest grows, pheasant will replace the grouse and there are possible long term plans for second homes for those who really want to get away from it all. When a client is found, Fountain Forestry and Fountain Amenity will take over the management of the projects on behalf of the client.

A better example of integrated land use is a project that MWL has undertaken in mid Wales. At Hendrewallog it bought 1,200 acres of hill farm. Like many such farms it had its problems of low yields and shortages of capital. The three subsidiary companies got together, drew the boundaries and sat down to think out the best possible use for the land. It was decided to use 500 acres for forestry, 600 acres for farming (sheep and beef) and the other 100 acres for recreation. This land will be open to the public and if planning permission is forthcoming 20 acres of it will be used for building second homes.

Switching stock

MWL has found one investor for the forestry, one for the farming and is looking for another for the amenity interests—or they may take it on themselves. A lowland farm has also been purchased so that it will be possible to overcome the winter problems of the first farm by switching stock and feed.

In this way MWL claims that it will treble local employme[nt] double the farming output [on] half the acreage, put mon[ey] into the land in the form [of] roads, buildings, fences, etc. a[nd] add forestry and recreati[on] opportunities to what was the[re] before.

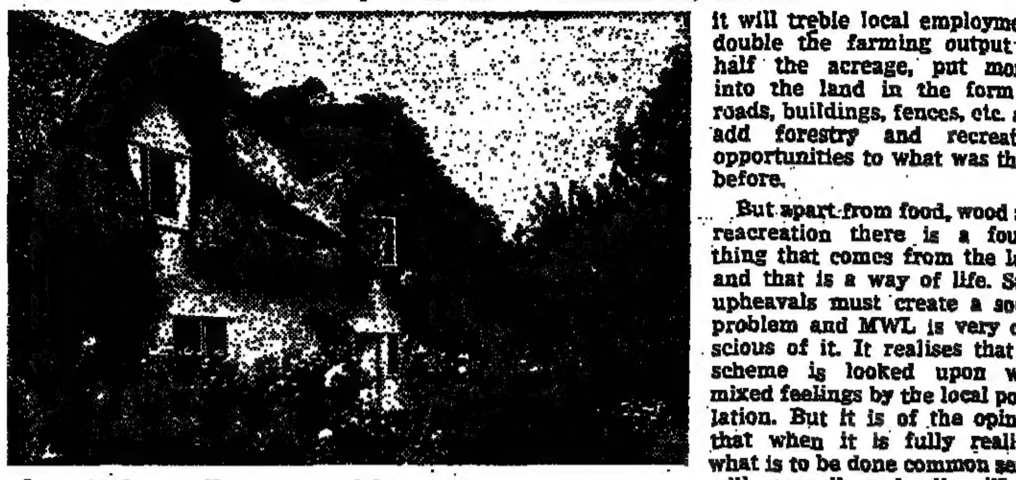
But apart from food, wood a[nd] reacreation there is a fou[rth] thing that comes from the la[nd] and that is a way of life. Su[ch] upheavals must create a soc[ial] problem and MWL is very co[n]scious of it. It realises that [the] scheme is looked upon w[ith] mixed feelings by the local po[pu]lation. But it is of the opini[on] that when it is fully realis[ed] what is to be done common sen[se] will prevail and all will [be] happy. To this end it is [en]couraging its own people and [a] Welsh farm manager it brou[ght] in to mix with the locals [to] explain what is happening.

This is a commercial exerc[ise]. No-one has yet proved if su[ch] an exercise can be successf[ul] and a hard look will have to [be] given to the balance sheets ne[xt] year.

But apart from the hard fina[n]cial angle, Mr. Howell finds th[at] most of the investors are be[nt] on becoming countrymen. A[nd] when they put their money in[to] the land they generally hav[e] some idea of one day retiring [to] one of the cottages they m[ay] have on the land. It is a patte[rn] that has gone on for centurie[s].

In replying to criticism o[f] this rather impersonal involv[e]ment in the land, Mr. Howel[l] points that this too has bee[n] going on for centuries. From a[t] least the fifteenth century Cit[y] money has been pouring into th[e] countryside as each generatio[n] makes its pile. And it is essen[tial] that it continues to do so i[f] if the countryside is to prosper.

It is a fairly rare event that a bishop's palace comes up for sale. But such is the case with the palace at St. Asaph, Flintshire, North Wales. This Georgian plus Victorian building is in 3½ acres of wooded grounds at the north end of the Vale of Clwyd. The house and three other lots are up for sale by tender, closing date November 30. Agents: Jackson-Stops, 25 Nicholas St., Chester.



Or perhaps a smaller cottage might be more convenient. This one is almost archetypal English country cottage as befits the owner who is one of our tourist industry chiefs. The house is at Shalford in Essex and is set in two acres and adjoins farmland. Agents: Tufnell and Partners. Price between £35,000 and £40,000.

هكذا ملف الأهل

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Collecting wisely

Guides to prices

BY JUNE FIELD

"WE COLLECT from a love of things. It hurts when others 'invest' and cause an inevitable rise in prices," writes a reader. Yet in these days of inflation a spirit of investment is bound to creep in, even for the most dedicated.

The wise buyer observes the maxim of "buy what you like;" then it will not be so dreadful if an article is not as old or as rare or as valuable as one thought. Having some kind of price guide helps too; nothing is more irritating than to be told "it is not our policy to quote prices." The bad old days of the coded price ticket dies hard in some antique shops.

The excellent *Price Guide* series of books available from The Antique Collectors' Club, Clopton, Woodbridge, Suffolk, gives not only prices, but the points to look for, the things to avoid, and how to identify and date individual pieces. The prices of the better provincial and suburban shops are used as a basis for a new edition of *The Price Guide to Victorian Furniture* (£4).

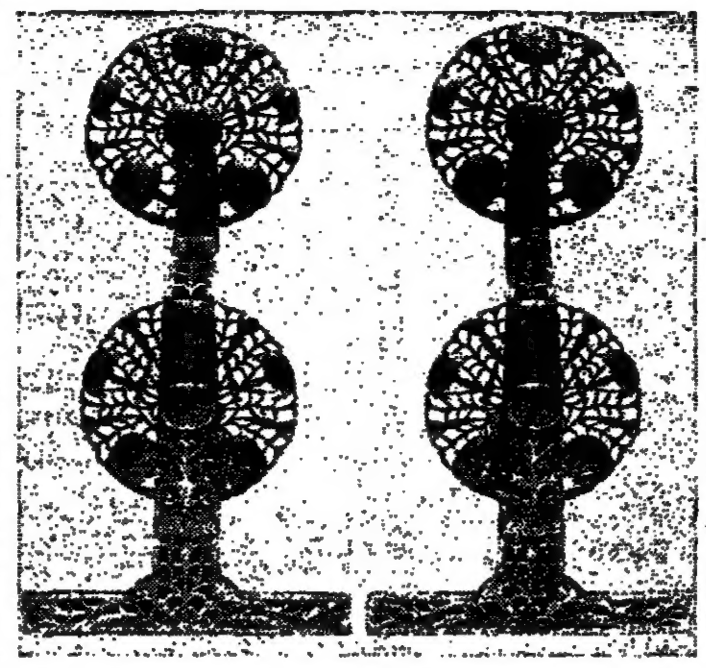
Value points are given for features which affect the price range. For instance, a bergère chair (£80-£110), of the 1880s in walnut with scroll carving and cabriole legs of French rococo derivation is awarded two stars for decorative carving, but has only one for the condition of the caning which is not so good.

The Lyle Official Antiques' Review (1974/1975 issue, £4.75), gives figures calculated on the basis of auction prices. As most of the articles illustrated are trade goods, prices from different areas are computed to produce an average. This method takes into account the "fluke" figures sometimes raised at auction.

Constant changes in fashions for collecting creates a demand for certain objects, and as supplies diminish, so prices rise. A fine George III wine cooler which was valued at £350 in last year's Review, is now given a tag of £775.

Auction catalogues can form a permanent reference of provenance and prices; Sotheby's Belgravia extremely useful "red books" have carefully researched and detailed descriptions of the items on offer and the estimate sheets sent out with them make a useful guide; any bid between the listed figures usually means a fair chance of success.

Sotheby Parke Bernet's Art At Auction 1972-1973 (£6), which is being published on Monday, deals primarily with the most important works of art that have realised the highest prices in their salerooms in London, New York and elsewhere—although it is as well to remember that included in their turnover of over £70m. are thousands of things that were bought for between £20 and £200.



Pair of polished steel firedogs designed by Ernest Gimson, c 1910.

The captions to the photograph-packed book (over 1,200) reveal the phenomenal increase in the prices of Victoriana, Art Nouveau and the pieces of the 1920's. All are legitimate collectables, for want of a better word (the purists, probably quite rightly, won't have it that they are antiques) and even more desirable now that the Grosvenor House Antiques Fair, so long adamant on the 1830 date-line, have, with their decision to include an 1830-1930 section, at last admitted that fine works of art were produced after the Regency period. Experts who can vet the later offerings are going to be in great demand by the time of their next exhibition in 1975.

Editor Annamaria Edelstein includes in the works of arts section of the book a pair of polished steel firedogs designed by Ernest Gimson and made by Alfred Bucknell, c. 1910. Illustrated below.

Gimson, who formed Kenton and Company and the Cotswold School in 1890, was part of the Arts and Crafts Movement. He set up metalwork production in 1903 with Bucknell as chief blacksmith, and the firedogs were indeed works of art, based on a 17th century pattern, each with two pierced and chased roundels of foliate design—the steel looking as fine and delicate as lace. Together with a cast-iron box basket by Netherton, the dogs made £700 in a sale last year.

Perhaps Gerald Reitlinger, author of *The Economics of Taste*, should have the last word on prices. In the book he points out that romantic cults of the past determine the picture market more than aesthetic principles, and asks with feeling: "Is there any sane reason why one of Gainsborough's landscapes is at present worth £35,000, while an adolescent derivative Picasso of 1901 fetches £270,000?"

The Arts

London Film Festival

BY NIGEL ANDREWS

The London Film Festival rolls round again next week, offering its annual assortment of rich pickings from the year's major European festivals, and providing Londoners with the chance to catch up on new work by directors who are making an impact in foreign cinemas. Forty-five feature films from 25 different countries is this year's impressive tally, and for good measure the organisers are planning five programmes of short films picked from the festivals at Annecy, Cork, Cracow, Grenoble and Oberhausen.

It's a varied and attractive programme. Following the trend of recent festivals, the big-name directors are largely absent this year (save, notably, for Ray and Ichikawa): but although the names in the current programme will have an unfamiliar ring for most people—Ulli Lommel, Don Shebib, Theo Angelopoulos—many of them look promising enough to compete in time with such perennial favourites of '60s festivals as Godard, Buñuel and Antonioni.

As festival director Ken Wlaschin points out in his introduction to the programme, 1973 has been a year for historical films; for films using a re-created chapter of past history to illustrate their political arguments or viewpoints. Three excellent examples stand out from this year's festival. Marco Leto's *Black Holiday* is an Italian film set in the 1930s, in which a university teacher who has spoken out against Mussolini is exiled to an island detention centre. Here the suffering of his fellow-prisoners, and the hypocrisies of the island's governor, gradually convert him to the need to fight fascism with stronger weapons than words.

Set in the stormy days preceding the setting-up of the Metaxas dictatorship in Greece, Theo Angelopoulos' *Days of '36* is a powerful, Jancso-like story of intrigue, bureaucracy and assassination set in a Greek political prison. Last but not least, Satyajit Ray's *Distant Thunder*, the Golden Bear winner at this year's Berlin festival, provides a moving account of the effect of World War Two on a remote Bengali village.

Continuing the historical theme, German fascism claims attention in the form of three documentaries about Hitler's rise to power. I haven't seen the Czech film *The Days of Betrayal*, but the two British documentaries *Swastika* and *The Double-Headed Eagle* both combine some fascinating archive footage (Eva Braun's home movies of Hitler at Berchtesgaden, in *Swastika*) with a regrettable quantity of padding and some dubious verbal and visual "souping-up" of the original material.

A more oblique and more powerful look at Germany and the long shadow of fascism is provided by Ulli Lommel's *The Tenderness of Wolves*. A reworking — and updating — of Fritz Lang's *M*, the film tells the story of Haarman, the notorious child-murderer of the 1920s, whose predilection for adolescent boys Lommel's is the first film to portray explicitly. Dispassionate performances and staging combine with the film's luminously photographed images to create a work that hovers fascinatingly between realism and myth.

Two other promising directors from Germany make their bow in this year's festival. Karin Thome's *Uber Nacht* is a Godardian fairy tale which won many admirers at the Berlin and Edinburgh festivals. Hans-Jurgen Syberberg's *Ludwig — Requiem for a Virgin King* is a florid historical portrait of Bavaria's mad king which combines Brechtian techniques of staging (back-projection, modern-dress) with a lush Wagnerian romanticism.

The London festival's home-grown entries are noticeably weaker than in previous years. They range from laudable but minor independent films such as *The Lacey Rituals*, comedian Bruce Lacey's affectionate send-up of the art of the home movie, and *Tunde's Film*, a kind of black *Bronco Bullfrog* written, performed and directed by a talented group of young East Enders, to the pretentious misfire of Peter Whitehead's *Daddy*, a knockabout Freudian fantasy on the theme of a girl's love for her father. The best British bet is *My Ain Folk*, Bill Douglas's eagerly awaited follow-up to his award-winning autobiographical film *My Childhood*.

From the United States comes a very mixed bunch, the most enticing entry among which is Joseph Wiseman's *Juvenile Court*. Shot in a juvenile detention centre in Memphis, Tennessee, it's the latest film by a director whose soaring reputation in the documentary field has already won him the plaudits of Pauline Kael and a retrospective season at the National Film Theatre. American films to watch out for during the festival also include Joseph Strick's *Janice*, a "road movie" by the director of *Ulysses* and *Tropic of Cancer*; David Hoffman's *Sing Sing Thanksgiving*, a documentary record of a concert held in Sing Sing prison by Joan Baez, B. B. King and others; and Daryl Duke's compelling st[ory] of an ageing Country 'n' Wes[tern] singer (brilliantly played by [Rip] Torn) lying, bullying and dri[nk]ing his way to self-destructi[on].

Two films each from Can[ada] and Japan deserve special att[en]tion. Don Shebib's *Betw[een] Friends* is a story of fra[yed] nerves and simmering hostilit[y] among the members of a ga[ng] planning a daring bank robbe[ry]. The film's subject matter is tra[di]tional movie fare, but familiar[ity] is transcended by the perfor[m]ances—superb from all th[e] leads, and from Bonnie Bede[lia] particularly as the girl—and the director's precise evocati[on] of place and time. I have seen the other Canadian ent[ry], Denys Arcand's *Rejeanne Pa[dovani]*, but it comes to Lond[on] with a high reputation earned [at] the Cannes Director's Fortnig[ht] "focusing classically on [a] dinner party as a microcosm [...] view of Canadian politics," a[s] one critic. Arcand "depicts [in] the quietest and most silvery tones a really terrifying Wat[er]gate-style story."

From Japan, finally, we ha[ve] Yoshida's *Coup d'Etat* a[nd] Ichikawa's *The Wanderers*. T[he] first film, made by the direct[or] of *Eros + Massacre*, is [an] attempt to recreate the life a[nd] thoughts of the Japanese fasc[ist] writer Ikki Kita: (it has alrea[dy] had a runaway commercial su[c]cess in Japan). *The Wanderers* is Ichikawa's latest contributi[on] to the Samurai legend, [an] "ironic tragi-comedy" abo[ut] three young men leading a li[fe] of itinerant adventure in 19[th] century Japan. Ichikawa's fir[st] film to find widespread critic[al] favour for some years, it pr[o]mises to be one of the ma[jor] highlights of the festival.

A scene from "The Tenderness of Wolves"

Apropos of the Falling Sleet

BY MICHAEL COVENEY

This lunchtime play at the Open Space is a clever adaptation from Dostoevsky's Notes From Underground. The story, from the second part, in which the narrator visits an intellectually impressionable prostitute in order to vent his spite on someone other than himself is prefaced with an extract, delivered at a lectern, from the first part which encapsulates the existential philosophy motivating the speaker. Peter Eyre as the narrator suggests brilliantly the restless impulse to assert an ego untrammelled by moral or social convention. Red-eyed and dangerously capricious, he switches from fits of morbid insecurity to flights of arrogant, ironical sermonising in hectic, bravura style.

The victim of his egoism, the golden-hearted Lisa (Cherith Mellor) is not only regaled with his unstoppable treatise but also given a detailed and horrific forecast of her future misery. She is forced to confront her destiny by a customer who takes his pleasure even while chastising himself for insulting humanity. She, of course, is trapped into pursuing the relationship further, only to meet with callous and inhumane dismissal. Mr. Eyre very cleverly insists upon sympathy for his own position by forcefully characterising the intellectual torment of one who despises and rejects all conformity, a[ll] rules that govern the public an[d] private life of "the averag[e] man."

He has been very well directe[d] by Robert Stephens, no less, wh[o] ambles into the action himself a[s] the insolent servant at th[e] narrator's lodgings. He serv[es] tea for the master and hire[d] mistress with agonising slownes[s], craning his neck to express tot[al] disgust at the paranoiac trea[t]ment that comes his way. It ha[s] been an excellent idea on som[e]body's part to present a slic[e] of this fascinating book [in] dramatic terms, and the ente[r]tainment makes for an unusuall[y] well-acted and impassioned addi[]tion to the lunchtime scene.

Robert Bates

BY MARINA VAIZEY

Robert Bates makes very small watercolours and pencil drawings. His subjects are the landscape—both rural and urban—of England. It is a landscape punctuated by homely people, industrial artifacts, brick walls, motor-cycles, lorries, cabbage patches, a pair of flowered knickers pinned on a clothes-line, various kinds of fencing, railway sidings, and the like. His colours are vivid and jewel-like but never spuriously contrived. In his first exhibition at Lumley Cazalet several years ago, he showed only prints, delicate landscape scenes, again in miniature, and dominated by a gentle and haunting sensibility. His second exhibition, some 18 months ago, consisted of these extraordinary watercolours, which played with perspective, and had more than hints of fiery but exquisite Oriental miniatures, accentuated by the elaborate decorated borders which framed our glimpses of his intensely understood fragments of a known and contemporary world.

The present exhibition, until November 21 at Lumley Cazalet, is even better. The technique, on his chosen tiny scale, is formidable. The detail of foliage, meadow flowers, the texture of wooden fence, the lattice of wire enclosures, the grotesque shape of an articulated lorry, are portrayed with an astonishing clarity, saved from any possible fixed blandness by a dancing lightness of touch. The little scenes appear autobiographical: the meetings of friends, a journey on a motor-cycle, a walk through a field, a view from a railway window, people glimpsed through the window of a house, a man walking through a farm. Even when a symbol is used, as in the watercolour *A Quiet and Gentle Person*, which shows a semi-desolate urban scene, a city graveyard, with the shroud-wrapped skeleton solemn and crumbling underneath the eart[h], Bates utterly avoids the besettin[g] English sin of a fey whims[i]cality.

There are constant touches o[f] absurd, irresistible and natura[l] humour: a man urinating behin[d] a truck, rows of dignified cab[]bages resting with such plump[]ness on their garden patch[], distant cooling towers dom[i]nating a graveyard scene.

Robert Bates shows us th[e] depths of enchantments, sinister, sad, magical and accepted tha[t] are all around us. And onl[y] superlatives will do to describ[e] his singular achievements.

The week's theatres

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE CLUB—*The Ride Across Lake Constance* by Peter Handke. A brilliant cast in an original play about dreams and illusion in the theatre. Both challenging and entertaining. Opened Monday.

SOHO POLY (lunchtime)—*Come*. Densely written piece by David Mowat in which an atomic scientist laments the loss of his daughter. Well directed by Max Stafford-Clark. Opened Tuesday.

MERCURY—*Life Is A Dream*. Sub-standard production o[f] Calderon's great and famou[s] play. Roy Campbell's excellen[t] version receives crude, inade[]quate treatment. Opened Wed[]nesday.

HALF MOON — *Female Transport*. Steve Gooch's new pla[y] both documents the atrociou[s] conditions on prison ships to Australia in the 19th century and characterises six of the unfortunate women with com[]passion. Fine production by Ron Daniels. Opened Thursday.

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARY

SPENS. On November 15th, 1973 peacefully in his sleep at his home Beacon Cottage, Benenden, Kent. William Patrick Spens (First Baron U.K.) P.C., K.B.E., Q.C., in his 89th year. A Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple, Chief Justice of India 1943-47. Very deeply loved and most loving husband of Kathleen and the late Hilda Mary, beloved father of Michael, Pat and Susan and devoted grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral service Benenden Church, Tuesday, November 20th 1973 at 12.15 p.m., followed by private cremation at Charing. Flowers and enquiries to K. W. Sills Funeral Director, Cranbrook (2284). Details of memorial service at the Temple Church, London to be announced later.

London radio stations in audience research clash

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

CLASHES OVER audience research have broadened a considerable breach in the relationship between the two London commercial radio stations, London Broadcasting and Capital Radio. Capital has put off audience research temporarily because it argues that listening patterns have been disturbed by the Royal Wedding. LBC is going ahead with audience research.

At one stage it was thought there would be joint research, and LBC (the all-news channel) says this was an "agreement," while Capital prefers to talk of an "understanding."

Mr. John Whitney, Capital's chief executive, argues that the timing of the Royal Wedding—which LBC covered—made acceptable research difficult. "We have to have a stable period of time through which proper research can be taken."

"I did not consider that, when the Independent Broadcasting Authority told us we could not cover the wedding, this was a suitable time to do it."

LBC audience research will be carried out in the very near future, while Capital's investigation will probably be delayed until January. This move by Capital has produced a strong reaction from some sections of the advertising industry.

The position has been further coloured by the unexplained "leakage" of BBC radio audience research figures for the London area. The figures are normally a closely guarded secret, but emerge as favourable to the BBC. They show that in October the average LBC audience was 200,000, the average Capital audience was 500,000 and the BBC's Radio One 2.5m.

Figures of that size are subject to considerable effective sampling error but, if in any way accurate, are an indication of the fact that the BBC is faring rather better in the radio ratings war than had been expected.

There have been a number of reports and rumours lately about LBC. These have especially concerned the suggestion that starting costs have been higher than the £1.25m. originally planned. Has LBC asked for more from its backers, notably the Charterhouse Group?

"No," says chief executive Mr. Michael Levete. "I have not sought any more money, and I am not seeking any more money." He went on to say that like any other Board in the present economic situation the LBC's might at some time have to consider contingency planning, but even that had not been done yet.

N. Sea oil: public money aid urged

BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

THE GOVERNMENT should plough public money into the exploitation of North Sea oil, one of the leading figures in the British energy industry, advocated last night.

Mr. Arthur Hawkins, Chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, said the oil industry might welcome an injection of public money "to relieve the tremendous strain on its own funds" of taking the financial risks in the North Sea.

Stressing he was not advocating the "back door nationalisation of the oil industry" in Britain, Mr. Hawkins said the paramount need was to keep the pace of North Sea development going, and that a financial partnership between the public and private sectors might be the best way. The Government must be prepared to invest "big money" if necessary.

British North Sea oil was far too important to the country's prosperity to be left to the vagaries of the international market, Mr. Hawkins declared.

Speaking at the annual dinner of the Oil Industries Club, Mr. Hawkins said the CEGB estimated that by the early 1980s Britain's coal, North Sea oil and gas, and its nuclear power, could make the country capable of meeting over 80 per cent. of its total fuel needs compared with just over half at present.

By comparison, most other industrialised countries would become increasingly dependent on imported energy. By the mid-80s Britain had a real chance of being completely self-supporting. It might go on to become a fuel-exporting country.

Mr. Hawkins reiterated the CEGB's view that it is over-dependent on coal and needs greater flexibility in its fuel supplies. It would like to build a "few more" oil-fired stations before nuclear power really got under way, he stated.

Doubts had been expressed about the wisdom of going ahead with the Maplin project and the Channel Tunnel. "There can be no doubts about the wisdom of investing in energy. The priorities appear to be obvious."

The CEGB plans to burn 20 per cent. less oil this winter than last year, Mr. Arthur Hawkins, said yesterday.

One of the factors behind the cutback—from 7m. tons to approaching 5.5m. tons — it understood to be recent indications by oil companies of a cutback in supplies because of the Middle East situation.

Rising oil prices and the Government's coal subsidy, have been at work since earlier this year and have already depressed the CEGB's oil burn.

The CEGB's plans are almost bound to be revised if it has to economise on coal consumption because of the miners' industrial action. In the absence of a disruption of its coal supplies, and in spite of the Arab oil threat, the CEGB is still thought to consider it will have enough oil to see it through the winter.

Solicitors in thalidomide case cleared

LONDON SOLICITORS Kimber Bull and Company who acted for more than 400 parents of thalidomide children in their compensation claims, have been cleared by the Law Society on complaints made by one of the parents.

The Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, has informed Kimber Bull that their council is satisfied that the firm's professional conduct did not merit criticism made

In a statement yesterday, the solicitors said the Law Society had informed them that it had considered the complaints in relation to their professional conduct of the case and the possibility of conflicting interests

The council was also satisfied that there had been no conflict of interest.

Local papers win awards

TEN REGIONAL newspapers have won the 1973 Newspaper Design Awards, Linotype U.K., the sponsors, announces. The awards, presented annually to newspapers for high quality design and layout, go to:

Regional morning or Sunday papers: 1—Birmingham Post, 2—Northern Echo (Darlington). Commended: Morning Telegraph (Sheffield).

Evening papers: 1—Evening Gazette (Colchester), 2—Evening Echo (Watford). Commended: Evening Echo (Basildon).

Weekly, bi-weekly or tri-weekly papers: 1—Chatham Standard, 2— Hillingdon Mirror. Commended: Chichester Observer and Crosby Herald.

This year was the first when national newspapers were not among the 267 entries for the best design. They were excluded because of poor support from the national dailies and Sundays.

The awards were presented at a luncheon in London yesterday.

Economic Diary

UNEMPLOYMENT figures for November will be issued on Thursday. The Prime Minister makes an official visit to North East Lancashire on Friday.

Other events and statistics next week include:

MONDAY—U.K. banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock at mid-October. Turnover of the motor trades in the third quarter. Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours at the end of October and the monthly index of average earnings for September.

WEDNESDAY — Confederation of British Industry council meetings: The agenda includes: Prices and Incomes Stage III. CBI regional development committee meeting to discuss Common Market regional policy and the first year of operation of the Industry Act. Publication of the Electronics "Little Neddy" annual statistical survey of the electronics industry.

THURSDAY—New vehicle registrations and car and commercial vehicle production in October. Publication of Energy Trends.

CHESS SOLUTIONS

Solution to Position No. 46. White won by 1 Kt(4)—R6ch, PxKt, 2 Q—Kt4ch, K—R1; 3/R—Kt7!, Resigns. 3...BxR; 4Qxb mate. 3...B moves; 3 RxPch and if the bishop doesn't move then 3...R—Kt8 mate. A good example of not having enough room to defend one's self.

Solution to Problem No. 46. P—B7, threat Kt—B6. 1...QxBP; 2R—Q3. 1...BxP; 2 R—B5 1...QxKP; 2 R—Q4 1...QxR; 2 QxQ. 1...BxR; 2 QxB. Fine half-pin problem.

OVERSEAS NEWS

GATT ANNIVERSARY

World trade referee

BY DAVID EGLI, GENEVA CORRESPONDENT

IT IS perhaps a happy coincidence that the Tokyo meeting of Ministers which launched the new round of multilateral trade negotiations should have taken place in the twenty-fifth anniversary year of the entry into force of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt). As the chairman of the contracting parties to the Agreement, Mr. B. Patel, noted last week, the coming negotiations, both because of their scope and their significance for international relations generally, will confront Gatt and its member nations with their most severe test to date. Yet the event symbolises the continuing vitality of an organisation which was originally intended to be temporary, which has no elaborate procedures and whose secretariat remains small both in relation to the establishments of other international bodies and the basic importance of Gatt for world trade and trade relations.

Gatt has, after all, provided the basic rules and contractual commitments governing the conduct of world trade over the past quarter century. It was required to fulfil this role only because of the abandonment of the Havana Charter of 1947 establishing an international trade organisation. But, from this small and relatively inauspicious beginning, Gatt has steadily grown in stature. At the Tokyo meeting 102 nations were represented and the declaration starting the new major trade liberalisation effort was approved without a dissenting voice.

Humble origins

It may be argued that the success of Gatt, remarkable when one looks at the vicissitudes of other international bodies since the Second World War, is due in large measure to its reasonably humble origins. "The absence of any predetermined blueprint," Mr. Patel remarked in his opening statement to the annual session of the contracting parties, ". . . has given Gatt the necessary freedom and flexibility to evolve pragmatically, without becoming diverted from its main course by procedural, administrative or legal complications. It has been able to adapt and respond constructively to the needs and realities of the times, while retaining its essential practical character as a forum for negotiations."

The expansion of world trade during this period has been enormous, and it is reasonably clear that the trading conditions established by Gatt have profoundly influenced this development. International trade has proved to be highly sensitive to the reduction of tariffs and, while regional trade liberalisation has contributed largely to the increased flow of goods, the global results certainly owe much to the arduous Gatt negotiations which have reduced tariffs of industrial countries to one-third of the level that existed in the 1920s.

Sophisticated

The negotiations have been almost continuous. The six major multilateral rounds of Gatt negotiations range from the original tariff bargaining of 1947 that preceded the signature of the General Agreement, through the Annecy and Torquay rounds of 1949 and 1950-51. The negotiations again in Geneva of 1956, the Dillon Round of 1960-1961 and the Kennedy Round of 1964-67. Although it was a novel move in inter-governmental relations in the immediate post-war period, multilateral trade bargaining is now considered as the normal approach to problems in this field. The methods and techniques have become increasingly sophisticated. The product-by-product bargaining of the early negotiations gave way in the Kennedy Round to the linear approach, and although the pattern for the coming round of negotiations has not been finally settled it is clear that the negotiators have available a far more complex and complete array of tools with which to perform what is going to turn out to be a very complicated task.

Impressive as is the record of industrial tariff reductions, Gatt can, with some justification, be accused of having fallen seriously short of its obligations in three fields: non-tariff barriers, agriculture and accommodation of the special needs of developing countries. All these items loom largely over the coming negotiations.

Considerable effort has, however, been devoted over the years to non-tariff problems. The first phase of Gatt's existence was marked by a prolonged campaign to remove quantitative restrictions which then afflicted much of world trade. More recent examples of action in this field include the 1962 declaration on subsidies and the 1967 anti-dumping code.

Much has been said about the signal failure of the Kennedy Round to tackle the liberalisation of agricultural trade. This, as in the past, is still frought with seemingly insoluble problems largely of a political nature and, despite the now vital need for progress in this field, there are many in Geneva who will consider it a small miracle if much is actually achieved in the coming months.

The problems of the developing countries have emerged, with ever greater urgency, over the past 25 years. These countries now form two-thirds of the Gatt membership and have had a very considerable impact on the direction of activities. As Gatt officials point out, these countries have benefited in large measure from the opening up of world markets and the dynamic growth of trade. Additionally, gradually more coherent attempts have been made to cope with their particular problems. These were given legal and institutional recognition with the adoption, in 1965, of part four of the General Agreement. The basic rules of Gatt, and particularly the most-favoured nation treatment, have been bent to meet the special needs of the LDCs. Gatt has, thus, given its blessing to the establishment of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences which the ministers at the Tokyo meeting agreed needed to be preserved and further strengthened. Also not without significance is the recent successful conclusion of trade negotiations among a number of developing countries themselves.

Public opinion

Beyond trade liberalisation, the Gatt principles and provisions have provided an invaluable context for the formulation and conduct of national and international trade policies. The in-built legal rights and obligations have exercised a restraining influence over governments which, in the trade field, have become increasingly sensitive to public opinion. Serious frictions have not been altogether avoided in this period, but Gatt has helped to avoid deterioration of such frictions into "trade wars."

The multilateral trade system has at times shown weariness, while there have been vast changes in the international economic scene. But the progressively greater universality of Gatt, with in recent years a steadily growing interest in East European countries, provides a firm foundation for future efforts to adapt the system in the light of changing circumstances. The coming negotiations give the needed opportunity to reinforce those elements of the system which have been seen to be essential in the last quarter century, to reconcile serious tension-creating differences between governments, and to decide what changes to the General Agreement are now desirable.

Zambians seize Briton on Rhodesia side of dam wall

BY TONY HAWKINS SALISBURY, Nov. 16

A NEW THREAT to the Central African Power Corporation — jointly owned by the Rhodesian and Zambian Governments — which operates the Kariba power system developed to-day when Zambian troops arrested a Rhodesian Capco employee on the Kariba dam wall.

The Rhodesian Government lodged an immediate protest and the British High Commission also acted in Lusaka to obtain the release of Mr. Donald Coles, a British subject.

Demarcation

The chairman of Capco, Mr. Jimmy Ward flew from Salisbury to Lusaka to try and obtain Mr. Coles' release.

An official statement by the Rhodesian Government said that Mr. Coles and Mr. Michael Winterbottom, a Rhodesian customs official, were on the Rhodesian side of the border examining the boundary demarcation lines when Mr. Coles was seized by Zambian troops, the troops also tried to seize Mr. Winterbottom.

Mr. Coles was taken away in a Zambian forces Land Rover and is now being held in Lusaka by the Zambian police.

Capco is the final remaining common services organisation shared by Zambia and Rhodesia. Earlier this week Capco announced a rise of more than 43 per cent. in its 1972-73 profits and also warned Rhodesian and Zambian users of an increase in bulk supply tariffs. The order incident is the first such development since a Rhodesian railwayman was seized early this year by Zambian troops while working on the Victoria Falls bridge, and the murder in May by Zambian troops of two Canadian girl tourists who were shot by the Zambians across the Zambesi river.

● Reuter adds from Pretoria: The Reverend C. F. Beyers Naude, director of the Christian Institute of South Africa, was to-day found guilty of refusing to testify before a parliamentary commission probing the organisation and fined R50. Alternatively, he can elect to spend one month in prison. In addition, he received a three-month jail sentence suspended for three years. Dr. Naude gave notice of appeal against the verdict.

The presiding magistrate, Mr. L. M. Kotze, found that there had been no fault in the establishment of the Schlesbusch Commission, which earlier this year presented findings which led to the banning of eight White student leaders.

The commission, briefed to investigate four anti-apartheid bodies, is currently probing both the Christian Institute and the South African Institute of Race Relations.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister John Vorster has apologised to Rhodesia for a South African newspaper's "immoral and mean" suggestion that the current oil crisis should lead the Republic to put major pressure on Rhodesia to settle with Britain."

Uneasy truce in Paris greengrocers' dispute

BY ROBERT MAUTHNER PARIS, Nov. 16.

FOLLOWING yesterday's complete shutdown of retail shops in Paris and some big provincial cities, M. Jacques Chirac, the Agriculture Minister, was to-day meeting representatives of fruit and vegetable growers, wholesalers and retailers to try to find a solution to the dispute.

It was a week-long strike of greengrocers in protest against the Government's latest price control measures which sparked off yesterday's unprecedented closure of all retail shops, restaurants and cafes in the capital.

Although the fruit and vegetable retailers voted yesterday by a very small majority to suspend their strike so that the meeting with M. Chirac could be held, the truce is an uneasy one. M. Rapine, the president of the greengrocers' association, has made clear that his organisation will not accept any solution which does not guarantee its members a fair income, and a further vote on whether to continue the strike will be taken to-morrow.

Since M. Chirac has no mandate from the Government to modify its measures taxing retailers' profit margins, but is first and foremost concerned with obtaining a return to a normal situation, it appears likely that the meeting to-day will be followed next week by round-table discussions between the Government and retailers representatives, chaired by the Prime Minister, M. Pierre Messmer.

West Germany buys 48% in Gelsenberg oil concern

BY ANDREW HARGRAVE FRANKFURT, Nov. 16.

THE WEST German Cabinet has decided to buy 48.3 per cent. of the equity of Gelsenberg, the oil and chemicals company, from RWE, West Germany's largest utility, it was announced to-day.

The Government has thus decided to abandon the plan to have the Gelsenberg share parcel taken over by the Veba energy group, in which it has a 40 per cent. holding. But the announcement repeated earlier Government statements that the intention was to set up a national oil concern (meaning one in German ownership).

The cost to the Government, DM641m., is about DM170m. higher than the present market capitalisation of Gelsenberg would warrant and considerably more than was paid by RWE five years ago when it acquired the block of shares. Gelsenberg has a share capital of DM485m. and its DM50 shares were to-day quoted in Frankfurt at 98.

The Government reluctantly spurred on by the energy crisis, has had to pay the price which, it is understood, followed a higher offer by RWE, to gain control of Gelsenberg. As to-day's announcement makes clear, it consider Gelsenberg the key to the reshaping of the West German oil industry.

Its original plan is understood to have faltered, because of Gelsenberg's resistance to being merged with VEBA, partly owing to Veba's reluctance to burden its 1.2m. non-Government shareholders with the investment in Gelsenberg, a company which has paid no dividends for two years.

Through its holdings in both Veba and Gelsenberg, the Government now has indirect control over 24m. tons of refining capacity, about the same as Esso, the present top refiner in the Federal Republic.

The two companies also have 56 per cent. of the equity in Aral, the country's largest petrol and diesel and heating oil chain, and 37 per cent. in the government-backed Deminex, an exploration and oil-purchasing company.

The announcement describes the move, which is still to be approved by the government's finance committee and parliament, as "the first in a series of steps" to the creation of a national oil concern. This could refer to bringing in eventually also two other, smaller oil and chemicals companies, Wintershall (in which the chemical concern BASF has a majority holding) and RWE's own U. K. Wesseling.

The two have a combined refining capacity of about 10m. tons which, added to the Veba-Gelsenberg capacity, would account for more than a quarter of West Germany's total refinery capacity.

The announcement claims that the acquisition of the Gelsenberg equity would improve prospects for negotiations with oil suppliers, particularly with Iran which was recently visited by Economics Minister Dr. Hans Friderichs and where West German oil companies, led by Veba, are having talks for processing the bulk of the output of a 25m. ton a year refinery to be built within the next few years.

Driving ban confirmed

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD BONN, Nov. 16.

CHANCELLOR Willy Brandt confirmed to-day that a ban on Sunday driving in West Germany will begin on November 25. The order in council putting this into effect will be ready early next week and will probably also set lower speed limits for week-day driving. These are expected to come down to 100 kph on the autobahns and to 80 kph on the Federal highways with effect from November 26.

The Sunday ban should cut petrol consumption by around 5 per cent. and the new speed limits by perhaps a little more. The Chancellor declined to say, however, how long the ban would last and said it was unlikely that it would apply to every Sunday and public holiday in December. The impression is that there will be some relaxation in the Christmas period.

Asked about the possibility of petrol rationing in January, Herr Brandt said it was "quite improbable." The restrictions were being introduced after the general supply situation had become clearer in the past few days. Enabling legislation to make them possible was rushed through the Bundestag last week.

● UPI adds: The Danish Government plans to ban Sunday driving and also ration oil supplies to the industries, parliamentary sources said to-day.

Spain denies priests' claims

BY ROGER MATTHEWS MADRID, Nov. 16.

THE SPANISH authorities to-day made their first determined attempt to hit back at the claims made by the six priests who are still on hunger strike in Zamora prison.

The priests began their protest ten days ago by attempting to start a fire in the jail. Their action has led to a number of sympathy protests, including one in Bilbao where over 30 priests are still occupying the offices of the local bishop.

In a statement issued by the directorate of prisons the accusations of the priests are totally denied. It is claimed that they have adopted a consistently rebellious attitude over the past three years. They had been allowed to live in an area previously occupied by at least 30 people and had been provided with a wide range of recreational facilities.

It is alleged that the six priests had done a great deal of damage to the prison, including smashing windows, a television, toilets, chairs, central heating radiators and items used for church services. "It is sad to add that perhaps the least used of all the facilities provided for them was the chapel, which they said they had no need for," says the statement.

The six priests are serving sentences ranging from 10 to 50 years. They claim that because the terms of the 1953 Concordat signed by the Madrid Government and the Vatican have been ignored they should at least be allowed to mix with other "political prisoners." Their case has stirred up a great deal of controversy in Spain and was partially responsible earlier this week for a meeting between the Archbishop of Madrid and Admiral Carrero Blanco, the Prime Minister. No details of the talks have been released.

The condition of the priests in Zamora is reported to be reasonable, although it seems they have consistently refused to take either food or water.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

OPERA & BALLET

COVENT GARDEN. THE ROYAL BALLET. Today at 2: THE SLEEPING BEAUTY [illegible]

COVENT GARDEN. THE ROYAL OPERA. [illegible]

COLISEUM. SADLER'S WELLS OPERA. [illegible] THE CORONATION OF POPPEA [illegible] A MASKED BALL [illegible] THE DEVILS OF LOUDUN [illegible]

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE. [illegible]

THEATRES

ADELPHI. [illegible] SALLY ANN HOWES PETER WYNGARDE RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S THE KING AND I [illegible]

ALBERY. [illegible] INGRID BERGMAN [illegible] THE CONSTANT WIFE [illegible]

ALDWYCH. [illegible] CORIOLANUS [illegible] TITUS ANDRONICUS [illegible]

AMBASSADORS. [illegible] THE MOUSETRAP [illegible]

APOLLO. [illegible] THE WOLF [illegible]

CAMBRIDGE. [illegible]

COLISEUM. [illegible] PETER PAN

COMEDY. [illegible]

CRITERION. [illegible]

DRURY LANE. [illegible] NO, NO, NANETTE [illegible]

DUCHESS. [illegible] Donald SINDEN, Joan GREENWOOD in IN PRAISE OF LOVE [illegible]

DUKE OF YORK'S. [illegible]

FORTUNE. [illegible]

GARRICK. [illegible]

GLOBE. [illegible]

GREENWICH. [illegible]

HAYMARKET. [illegible]

HER MAJESTY'S. [illegible]

KINGS ROAD THEATRE. [illegible] THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW [illegible]

LYRIC. [illegible]

MAY FAIR. [illegible]

MERMAID. [illegible]

NEW LONDON. [illegible]

NEW VICTORIA. [illegible]

OLD VIC. THE NATIONAL THEATRE. [illegible]

PALACE. [illegible]

PALLADIUM. [illegible]

PHOENIX. [illegible] VANESSA REDGRAVE [illegible] DESIGN FOR LIVING by NOEL COWARD [illegible]

PICCADILLY. [illegible]

PLACE. [illegible]

PRINCE OF WALES. [illegible]

QUEEN'S. [illegible]

RAYMOND REVUE BAR. [illegible]

ROUNDHOUSE. [illegible]

ROYAL COURT. [illegible]

ROYALTY. [illegible]

SAVOY. [illegible]

SHAW THEATRE. [illegible]

STRAND. [illegible] NO SEX PLEASE, WE'RE BRITISH [illegible]

ST. MARTIN'S. [illegible]

TALK OF THE TOWN. [illegible]

VAUDEVILLE. [illegible]

VICTORIA PALACE. [illegible]

WESTMINSTER. [illegible]

WHITEHALL. [illegible] PAUL RAYMOND'S PYJAMA TOPS

WYNDHAM'S. [illegible]

YOUNG VIC. [illegible]

CINEMAS

ABC 1 & 2, Shaftesbury Ave. [illegible]

ASTORIA. [illegible]

CAMDEN PLAZA. [illegible]

COLUMBIA. [illegible]

CURZON. [illegible]

DOMINION. [illegible]

EMPIRE. [illegible]

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE. [illegible]

ODEON. [illegible]

PARAMOUNT. [illegible]

PRINCE CHARLES. [illegible]

RIALTO. [illegible]

STUDIO. [illegible]

UNIVERSAL. [illegible]

WARNER. [illegible]

CHESS BY C. H. O'D. ALEXANDER

Anglo-Dutch match

DESPITE OUR narrow defeat by 10½-9½, the match against Holland was in every way very satisfactory. First, there was an excellent attendance of about 150 each day at the Manchester Town Hall, easily the biggest I can remember at one of these fixtures. We ought to—and I hope we shall—play many more of these matches out of London in the big provincial cities. Playing conditions were very good and—as always under Unilever sponsorship—accommodation and hospitality was admirable.

The match itself was hard fought, despite a high proportion of draws. On Board 1, where the 72-year-old ex-world champion Professor Max Euwe played Ray Keene, the first game was short, boring and disappointing but the second was a fine struggle. It was really impressive to see how the veteran, drawing on all his experience, was able to hold a difficult defensive position.

Keene was perhaps not the best opponent for him from our point of view; he posed Euwe strategic and positional problems, but the hardest thing for an older player to deal with is tactical complications and these did not arise to any major extent.

Penrose, Markland and Whiteley did well to make level scores against Donner, Sosonko and Ree on Boards 2-4; the match was lost on Board 5, where Botterill lost both games to Enklaar—the first on time, the second in a curious way. Enklaar with White had recently lost to Ribli; Botterill thought he saw how Enklaar could have got a good game, so he played as Enklaar had done in the earlier game—and the latter duly obliged by playing as Ribli had done. Unfortunately Botterill suddenly discovered that his improvement was no good—too late to have any useful alternative—and lost accordingly.

On Board 6, Stean drew the first game and won a fine second round game. Miles was a little disappointing and had a couple of draws which never looked like more. Basman had to play Bouwmeester on Board 8, an unlucky pairing for us; Bouwmeester is a player of very good judgment, who punishes rash-play; his weakness is that he is a little passive left to himself. Basman is always trying something and making his opponent work—just the kind of opposition to make Bouwmeester play his best. The Dutch player won a very good strategic game in the first round and I was relieved that Basman held him to a draw in the second round.

In the junior game, Mestel played the game of the match against van den Linde in round one, winning by a beautiful attack, and nearly won the second game as well, his opponent just escaping with a draw. In the ladies' game Mrs. Pritchard made rather a horrid mess of her first round game against Mevr. Timmers—but in the second round she evened the score by a very decisive victory.

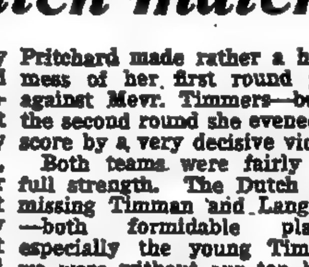
Both teams were fairly near full strength. The Dutch were missing Timman and Langeweg—both formidable players, especially the young Timman; we were without our top board Hartston and our leading lady player Mrs. Hartston. On the whole I should say that we suffered, if anything, slightly more from the absences—which brings me to a different topic.

The Hartstons were away because Jana Hartston was playing in the Women's Interzonal Tournament and her husband was her second. She just missed qualifying, largely because of an unexpected defeat by the Spanish player whom she had always previously beaten. All the qualifiers were Russians and Mrs. Hartston was the only player who seriously challenged their supremacy; congratulations and sympathy in equal proportions.

Next week I will give the Mestel/van den Linde game.

POSITION NO. 46

BLACK (14men)

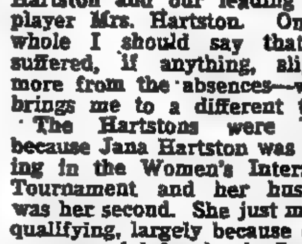


WHITE (14men)

From the game Müller v. Pickler (East Germany, 1972). This is the kind of position we know White must win—and he does; how?

PROBLEM NO. 46

BLACK (6men)



WHITE (14men)

By M. Wrobel (1st prize; Probleem Blad, 1958). White to play and mate in two moves.

Solutions Page 11

THE ENERGY SITUATION

Oil producers discuss further tax rises

BY RICHARD JOHNS

...ducing states will hold discussions in Vienna at ...-end when they will face ...ion of whether they will ...es yet again in response ... market prices resulting ...b production cutbacks.

...ganisation of Petroleum ...g Countries' conference ...f the two, semi-annual ... ones scheduled, but ... cannot avoid facing the ...a arising from the new ...for calculating posted ...hich the six Gulf pro-...stablished on October 17 ...it.

...the six Gulf producing ...ised the tax reference by ... cent. unilaterally and ...that in future it should ...r cent. above the highest ...e realised in their own ...nsactions with third ...When the Gulf producers ... for bids for their parti-...crude (the oil to which ... entitled by agreement ... companies) offers will ...bove previous levels ...of the artificial shortage ...y use of the Arab "oil

...ers of the six Gulf producers will have consultations to-morrow with representatives of the Western oil companies led by Dr. George Piercy, of Exxon, before the full OPEC conference.

The industry had no choice but to accept the OPEC decision that producing countries will in future set their own posted prices. But Dr. Piercy and his colleagues will try to persuade the six not to review prices again until *the market* has returned to "normal."

It appears that Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani of Saudi Arabia and the other Ministers last month did not decide just how often market prices would be adjusted according to the criterion agreed upon.

From the text of an advertisement *prepared by the Organisation* of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), which *is formally responsible for the* cut-backs, there is evidence of some concern about the feelings *of consumers in the West and* public opinion. There must be some hope—though there can *be no certainty—that such considerations* will lead the producers to delay implementation of the mechanism for adjusting prices.

But they will probably have to be satisfied that the acute pressure of demand on limited supplies will not mean higher profit margins for the companies. Gulf producers adopted *the new base for taxation* to ensure that the governments' "take" remained stable in future at about 75-80 per cent. of the proceeds from the sale of oil.

Iran, the one non-Arab state *amongst* the six, is likely to counsel restraint. In the wider OPEC it is possible that Venezuela *may* as well.

One important piece of evidence about the Arab producers' concern about their "image" is the two-week tour being undertaken by Sheikh Yamani and Mr. Belaid Abdessalam, his Algerian counterpart, to Europe and the U.S.—though their brief may be to warn rather than reassure.

According to reports from Algiers, Sheikh Yamani is to visit the Netherlands, which is com-*pletely* boycotted by Arab producers and also New York some time next week.

Shipping hit by shortages

By James McDonald, Shipping Correspondent

THE Arab "oil weapon" has dramatically affected the healthy state of shipping over the past month. There is now a large "hidden surplus" of ships, particularly oil tankers, throughout the world, *often* unable to obtain oil bunkers and more often, depending on their *ownership, unable to load oil in* Arab states.

The recent events in the Middle East make nonsense of the latest figures produced by the U.K. Chamber of Shipping recording a further fall in the volume of world shipping laid-up through lack of employment during October. The statistics show that at the end of October there were only 160 ships, aggregating 729,000 gross tons—less than 0.5 per cent. of the world merchant shipping fleet—laid-up.

Rotterdam refineries cut output

By Michael Van Os

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 16.

TWO OF THE biggest refineries in the Rotterdam area, the 26m. tons a year Shell plant and the 16m. tons Esso plant, are to reduce production starting next week as a result of the interruption in crude oil supplies.

Shell will *cut* daily *output* by 20 per cent. Esso, whose refinery was already running at 80 per cent. *of capacity before the start* of the difficulties in the Middle East, will reduce output by another 40 per cent. to *around* 6.4m. tons on an annual basis.

Inflation effect '½% to 1%'

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

PARIS, Nov. 16.

...ARP rise in oil costs is ...o add a further *half* to ... cent. to *consumer prices* ...4-nation OECD area next ... a time of few signs that ... is nearing control.

...was the main conclusion ...-day meeting here of the ...ation's economic *policy* ...ee, whose discussions ...y centred on the effect ...l *price and supply moves* ...main Western economies:

...ment was widespread ...e cuts will leave little ...l *activity this year.* For ...owever the picture is ...uncertain, and the com-...is to bring forward its usual spring meeting to February to try and get a *clearer* idea of the situation.

After the meeting, the chairman Sir *Douglas* Allen of the U.K. Treasury was surprisingly reassuring on the ability of the monetary system to cope with the extra Arab revenues. He pointed out that most of these funds found their way back into *the OECD area,* thus indirectly financing the extra energy spending.

The vital thing, he argued, was that individual countries do not make measures to restore any current deficit that they may incur through higher oil prices. For the OECD area, the overall payments drain has been tentatively estimated at $15,000m., including $2,750m. for the U.S. and Japan, $1,250m. for Britain and $1,750 for Germany.

Sir Douglas meanwhile virtually appealed for new ideas to combat inflation implying that the methods, concerted or otherwise, *so far* employed were of scant success.

The latest OECD figures bear *him out. After a temporary lull* in August, European countries suffered an averaged 0.9 per cent. price *rise* in September, with Portugal, Spain, Greece Denmark and the Netherlands all at 1 per cent. or more. Things improved in the U.S.; but in Japan consumer prices climbed 2.9 per cent. in the single month.

IRISH CUTBACK

DUBLIN, Nov. 16.

THE IRISH Government has ordered with immediate effect a 10 per cent. cutback *in* all petrol, kerosene and heating oil sales to private customers through retail outlets.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Syrian terms for PoWs

BY ROBERT GRAHAM

TEL AVIV, Nov. 16.

...is reported to have laid ...hree conditions for the ... of Israeli prisoners of ... This report, published ...n the independent Maariv ...per, came as the ex-...of Egyptian and Israeli ...rs moved smoothly into ...nd day.

...rding to Maariv's new ...correspondent, the three ... conditions, transmitted ...h a third party, are the ...ng: (1) That all bodies of the Syrian dead are returned; (2) That all civilians dislodged *by Israeli occupation of new* Syrian territory on the Golans, as a result of the recent fighting, *be allowed to return;* (3) That prisoner-of-war status be granted to Palestinian guerillas who have fought with the Syrian army.

If these conditions are true, it means that the Syrians have apparently dropped their main earlier condition that Israeli forces must first withdraw from territory occupied during the fighting.

There have been no indications here how the conditions were transmitted to Israel: but it is believed they have come via the UN. Last night the UN Secretary General's special envoy, Senor Roberto Guyer, arrived in Jerusalem by *road after consulting* in Damascus with Syrian leaders.

So far as the exchange of Egyptian and Israeli *prisoners* of war is concerned, it is now proceeding well. To-day 250 *Egyptian prisoners left here for* Cairo—yesterday there were 412. In return 27 Israelis were flown *in from Cairo,* including nine persons whose capture dated from the "war of attrition" over three years ago. This exchange is *expected to last one* week.

● **William Dullforce adds from Cairo:** The siege of Suez was further eased to-day when a convoy of 10 bus-ambulances brought 200 wounded Egyptians from the Canal City through United Nations checkpoints to Cairo.

But the authoritative Al Ahram daily warned that further implementing the Egyptian-Israeli ceasefire agreement promised *to* be "extremely difficult and critical."

● Reuter reports: Israeli Prime *Minister Golda Meir said* in a televised interview to-night that there was now more room to hope for a Middle East peace than there had been for a quarter of a century.

Sadat 'facing growing criticism'

By Ihsan Hijazi

BEIRUT, Nov. 16.

ARAB difficulties arising from *the Middle East* war are *coming* up on the surface in wake of the implementation of the ceasefire agreement between Egypt and Israel and as preparations are underway for the Arab *Summit Conference in Algiers* on November 26. Observers believe that the main burden of these difficulties falls on President Anwar Sadat.

The cable Libyan leader Col. *Moammar Khedafi* sent yesterday to President Sadat in which he acidly criticised the Egyptian leader's handling of the war has *been described in the Press here* as the first serious breach of inter-Arab solidarity which has *been demonstrated* since the war broke out on October 6.

Khedafi said Arab honour has been *tarnished* by *the* meeting between Egyptian and Israeli officers on the road between *Suez* and *Cairo,* and that the war, rather than liberating the territory Israel occupied in 1967, left the Israeli's in control of *additional territory in Syria* and Egypt. He said Sadat should have continued the war even if the Arabs had to fight with swords.

Palestine provisional government plan

BY WILLIAM DULLFORCE

CAIRO, Nov. 16.

THE Palestinian Liberation Organisation is seriously considering the establishment *of* a provisional government, in order to strengthen the Palestinian claim to a seat *at* the Middle East peace conference, Palestinian sources said here to-day.

Yasser Arafat, PLO chairman, has postponed his visit to Moscow after the Palestinians began to feel that the United States was "determining" the Soviet attitude towards a Middle East settlement, the sources said. The Russians were earlier reported to have proposed to the Palestinians that they accept a solution based on the formation of a *Palestinian State on the West* Bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip and that they form a *delegation ready for* peace talks.

But, Palestinian sources indicated to-day that the PLO leaders had turned to the possibility of setting up a provisional government after it became clear during Arafat's *recent* talks *in Riyadh* and Cairo that Jordan would be represented alongside Egypt and *Syria during the first stage of the* peace conference but that there would be no place for the Palestinians.

The effect of such a procedure would be that decisions about *Israel's* future borders on the West Bank would be taken by King Hussein. This was inadmissible, the sources said.

The Middle East News Agency reported yesterday that the follow-up committee appointed *after* the *last* Palestinian National Council meeting in January has called for a general Palestinian conference to be held under PLO auspices.

LEBANON CLASH

BEIRUT, Nov. 16.

LEBANESE artillery opened fire to-day on a group of Israeli armoured vehicles which made a two-hour incursion into South Lebanon, the Defence Ministry announced to-night. The Israeli forces penetrated up to 400 metres and then withdrew across the border, it said.

Reuter

● NEWS ANALYSIS—ORIEL FOODS

Gulliver's travels

BY SANDY McLACHLAN

ABOUT A year ago Mr. James Gulliver left the Associated British Foods Group after a number of years as head of their Fine Fare supermarkets subsidiary.

At that time, his departure came as some surprise: he had been taken on to turn round Fine Fare from a loss-making position into a profitable contributor to the ABF results and had done so with remarkable success. His efforts had won him acclaim not only from ABF's chairman Mr. Garry Weston but also the Guardian newspaper's award as young businessman of the year.

In January of this year, it looked as though the mystery was solved. Mr. Gulliver reappeared as chairman of a little-known company in the business of manufacturing edible oils called Oriel Foods.

Mr. Gulliver the manager re-emerged as Gulliver the entrepreneur and he and his associates — including Alistair Grant who followed him from Fine Fare, had a 30 per cent. stake in Oriel.

At that stage, Mr. Gulliver was early into his 18-month agreement with Fine Fare that he would not get involved in food retailing during that period, and instead he enthusiastically set about a process of acquisition aimed at producing a logical wholesaling base out of the largely fragmented food distribution set-up.

He made little secret of the fact that if conditions were suitable this could form a platform for re-entry into retailing once his period of exile was up.

But now, less than 12 months later, Mr. Gulliver has changed direction again. He has willingly agreed to a cash offer from the U.S. group RCA Corporation which he and his associates could easily have blocked had they so desired, and so Mr. Gulliver the entrepreneur reverts to Mr. Gulliver the manager — albeit something like £1m. better off than a year ago.

Equally intriguing is why RCA, which is best known to most people in this country for its record sales, and which has a turnover worldwide of something like $3.8 billion, should find it worthwhile to spend £11m. in cash on a relatively small U.K. food wholesaling company. The obvious question raised is —what has brought these two dissimilar parties together?

The RCA side of the coin is probably the most straightforward to answer. They have diversified considerably since the days when they were Radio Corporation of America and one area of this diversification is a company called Banquet Foods —among the biggest producers of frozen prepared meals in the U.S. and Canada.

RCA is no stranger to this side of the Atlantic through other activities and is clearly keen to develop its food interests in Europe. The group clearly likes Mr. Gulliver's management style, and in the manner of U.S. companies is prepared to pay a premium for management.

There is the added bonus that Oriel under Mr. Gulliver has been moving towards frozen foods as part of its diversification, and so here at least there is common ground between the two groups.

Dynamic

The convenience food habit is growing rapidly in Europe, and within convenience foods, frozen foods are clearly the most dynamic area.

Ownership of freezers is spreading apace and as a result of this, the merchandising of large freezer packs of frozen foods is tending to break down the distinction between retail and wholesale trades. In addition, since the field is fairly new, it is also largely wide open for new entrants.

This may be one of the keys to answering the much more complex question of why Mr. Jimmy Gulliver has done another about-turn. He has certainly satisfied himself in a month of talks with RCA that his team and their management have what he calls "a community of objectives."

Certainly Mr. Gulliver had planned to take Oriel into Europe, but with his relatively small base this would have been a slow process.

He feels obviously that RCA can give him the financial muscle to speed this up and that it can also offer him a horizon of possible opportunities that would be possible from the standpoint of Oriel as it now stands.

[Much the same logic motivated Mr. Michael Abrahams, chairman of the carpets group A.W. (Securities), to accept a £40m. bid from the U.S. group Champion International.]

He himself tends to stress "personal job satisfaction," and "intellectual companionship of top professional international managers" as prime reasons for abandoning his entrepreneurial status (and of course that of his management team).

But it is hardly conceivable that these considerations are not backed up by awareness of tangible business opportunities available as a result of the merger which would not otherwise be available.

At a guess, quicker implementation of his plans for rationalising in the wholesale trade, a fairly speedy re-entry into retailing at the first opportunity, and a sizeable involvement in frozen foods could all figure among these opportunities.

Smiles before serious talks—President Georges Pompidou of France arrives at Northolt Airport where he is greeted by Mr. Edward Heath.

Nine should agree on gold valuation—Commissioner

BY LORELIES OLSLAGER BRUSSELS, Nov. 16

HERR Wilhelm Haferkamp, the EEC Commissioner responsible for economic and monetary affairs, said here to-day that the Common Market countries could agree on their own valuation of gold for internal EEC transactions now that the two-tier market has been at least partially abandoned. In a first official comment to the decision taken in Basle earlier this week, Herr Haferkamp clearly seemed to welcome such a possibility.

The present situation, he told a Press conference, could be an opportunity for the EEC to demonstrate a "European personality."

Asked what effect the Basle decision would have on the Commission's proposal that the member states should pool 10 per cent. of their reserves in gold, dollars, special drawing rights and IMF positions next January 1, Herr Haferkamp said it might now be possible to value pooled gold "at a price based on the market at a certain date." This question would have to be examined in the coming weeks.

He added that such a step was not necessary in order to start with the pooling of reserves, including gold.

Herr Haferkamp was introducing the Commission's proposals for the second stage of economic and monetary union, which is to start on January 1, 1974, and to last for "at most" three years.

The pooling of reserves and a considerable increase in the Community's existing short-term credit lines are two of the main features of the Commission plan. Herr Haferkamp said the Commission would propose further pooling beyond the initial 10 per cent. whenever it judged that economic conditions were ripe.

The other main aim of the Commission's proposals is to enforce greater co-ordination of national economic and monetary policies and to strengthen Community control over them.

The Commission also proposes that the existing 2.25 band within which the "snake" currencies can fluctuate against each other should be reviewed by the Council of Ministers each year.

The Commission is proposing that in future exchange rates—whether official parities or central rates—can be changed only after consultation within the Community's monetary committee.

The Commission has a series of proposals for bringing about greater co-ordination of natio[nal] economic and monetary polic[ies]. A "directive on stability, grow[th] and full employment" wou[ld] oblige all member countries [to] have a number of instrume[nts] ready for use.

These would include pow[ers] for the monetary authorities [to] conduct open market policies, impose or change rese[rve] co-efficients and interest ra[tes] and to influence consumer cre[dit] and mortgage conditions.

The Commission put spe[cial] emphasis on the need for "st[rict] supervision of budget def[icits] and surpluses" and the way th[ey] are financed or spent.

Aware that all the provisi[ons] for co-ordinating national p[oli]cies have not worked during [the] first phase of economic [and] monetary union, the Commiss[ion] is also proposing a number [of] institutional arrangements [to] improve the situation.

The Council of Ministers [is] asked to fix monthly meetin[gs] well in advance and a spe[cial] committee would be establis[hed] with the European Moneta[ry] Co-operation Fund for "perm[a]nent and prior" consultations [on] monetary and credit polic[ies] particularly as far as liquid[ity] and interest rates are concern[ed].

U.K. not blackmailed over oil—Sir Alec

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME, the Foreign Secretary, denied last night that Britain had lurched in an Arab direction during the Middle East war because of fears about oil supplies.

Britain's Middle East policy had been laid down in detail in 1970 before anyone started thinking about an oil shortage, Sir Alec told the annual meeting of his constituency Conservative association in Comrie, Perthshire.

It was nonsense to talk of submission to Arab blackmail.

Buffer zones

Turning to hopes of a lasting Middle East peace, Sir Alec said there would need to be: buffer zones between the Israeli and Arab armies: an international military force, which could not be removed by either side, stationed in these buffer zones, and international guarantees for the agreed frontiers.

"In these processes of peace-making the permanent members of the Security Council must be ready to help if they are required," he said.

The first problem of reconciliation had been to persuade the Arabs to accept the continued existence of the State of Israel. "It took a long time before they were convinced," he said.

The second problem was to persuade Israel that her physical security could no longer be guaranteed by the continued occupation of Arab lands.

"That has not happened yet, but the recent war underlined this conclusion," declared Sir Alec.

"As weapons become more and more accurate and powerful, her chances of successful defence through the occupation of her neighbour's territories becomes much reduced."

Russia should be made to understand that massive military intervention there could be fatal to world peace and that the only hope of avoiding a confrontation with the U.S. was in joining with the Americans and others to limit arms and to construct a peace settlement.

"There is hope that they may now see the truth of this, for the warning has been plain," he said.

Wilson leads massive attack in advance of censure motion

BY PHILIP RAWSTORNE

MR HAROLD WILSON and leading members of Labour's "shadow" Cabinet last night launched a massive political onslaught on the Government for the "total collapse" of its economic and industrial policies.

Prefacing next week's Commons censure motion, the Labour leaders, in speeches throughout the country, accused the Government of causing both a national economic crisis and industrial conflict.

In a forceful defence of the miners, Mr. Wilson said at Huyton that the Prime Minister was trying to make them the scapegoat for the Government's economic "blockbuster" earlier this week, which would raise the cost of living even higher.

Amid the "total collapse" of his policies, Mr. Heath did nothing. "All the country gets is his pompous and spurious argument about who runs the country. The trouble is the country is not being run at all," declared Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson said this crisis gave Mr. Heath a chance to recast a fairer financial policy. "This time let him show understanding, concern and statesmanship."

Mr. Roy Jenkins, speaking in Wolverhampton, said: "A major economic crisis is upon us."

External difficulties had been grossly exacerbated by the Government's sustained record of economic mismanagement. Mr. Anthony Barber, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had been "a dancing master in charge of a crisis-prone economy."

The benefits of a year's economic growth, now threatened with a drastic end, had been lost in the rampant inflation.

Now, said Mr. Jenkins, this "appalling record" was being explained away by Mr. Peter Walker with his "cheapjack salesmanship," while he neglected his own duty of conserving oil supplies.

Speaking in Stepney, Mr. Peter Shore said: "The great economic crisis has at last exploded." The Government, he said, should now be presenting to the nation serious and relevant measures to deal with the trade deficit and inflation, instead of provoking the miners.

Energy watchdog needed to cut waste, says peer

BY JOHN HUNT

THE ESTABLISHMENT of an Energy Commission to cut back on the unnecessary use of fuel and resources was advocated last night by Lord Avebury, the Liberal peer, in his presidential address to the Conservation Society.

He predicted that such a commission would curtail the Concorde programme, prevent the "Maplin folly" and defer expenditure on the Channel Tunnel.

In the future, the price of oil would be determined unilaterally by the producers and they would charge what the traffic would bear, he said.

Lord Avebury, formerly Eric Lubbock, MP, foresaw the possibility of a series of energy crises of increasing severity. In the developed world it could lead to mass unemployment and the paralysis of everyday life as transport systems were dislocated.

Tories open week-end campaign to reassure nation on policy

BY JOHN HUNT

A CONCERTED campaign is being mounted by Ministers this week-end to impress on the country that the latest economic measures do not mean a return to "stop-go."

Coupled with this is a reiteration of the Government's determination that there should be no wage settlements outside the terms of Stage Three.

The Conservative counter-attack is aimed at blunting the edge of the large scale Labour onslaught which alleges the complete failure of Government policies on the economic and industrial fronts.

The tone was set last night by Mr. Tercnce Higgins, financial Secretary to the Treasury, who asserted that the latest measures to control credit certainly do not constitute an economic "stop."

On the contrary, he told a Worthing audience, they were designed to ensure that the economy continues at a growth rate of 3½ per cent.

"The restriction on credit is intended to keep monetary expansion in line with the needs of the economy, and to avoid creating problems of demand management in the future," he declared.

A similar message was put across by Sir John Eden, Minister for Posts, who linked it with an extremely bitter attack on the miners' dispute. He suggested the men had been led astray by political extremists in the NUM leadership, who intended to overthrow the elected Government.

The Government had protected fuel supplies because of the "wholly unjustified go-slow by miners."

This had led to a threat which had a deeper and more serious significance. There were those, he said, who would destroy the foundations for economic stability, and it would be monstrously unwise to close our eyes to this challenge or to pretend that it could not happen here.

In the hands of "extremist leaders" in the miners' union, the ordinary decent patriotic miner became an intrument to further the campaign to flout the rule of law, and "to overthrow the elected Government of this country."

The misguided minority should beware, said Sir John. The Government was not for the taking, and would not be moved by threats and blackmail.

Ministers are to make more public speeches on the economy to-day.

Elstree plan accepted

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

THE EMI formula for the continued operation of Elstree film studios has been accepted by the film unions. The agreement means that the permanent labour force at Elstree will be cut by nearly half from its present 500-plus.

Mr. Bernard Delfont, chief executive of EMI's film division, suggested that the end might be in sight for Elstree when EMI's American partner in the studio operation, MGM, withdrew. This left EMI with annual losses of well over £500,000 on the studios.

Mr. Delfont then told the film unions that if the permanent staff could be reduced there was a possibility that the studios could remain open. Last night he said the unions had accepted the proposals and the new system would start to operate on January 1.

Behind the scenes there has been a considerable amount of bitterness generated as a result of the Elstree situation, allied to that at Shepperton, which is to continue with reduced acreage. Film makers

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Colour TV sales result of 'patient groundwork'

By Arthur Sandles

THE BOOM in colour television sales is the result of careful groundwork, according to Sir John Davis, chairman and chief executive of the Rank Organisation.

Speaking in Plymouth at a lunch to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Rank Radio International's main television factory, Sir John said it had only been by "patient work, painstaking technical research and thorough planning in the field of production, marketing and finance" that the ability had been present to take advantage of the demand.

He accused past governments of following "stop-go" policies "which have resulted in sudden contractions of demand and subsequently of employment."

Sir John praised the present Government as "the first in recent British industrial history to acknowledge that 'stop-go' policies create a climate of uncertainty and fluctuation in which business cannot operate effectively as it cannot plan with confidence."

Sir John said that Rank had decided to spend more than £3m. on improving facilities at the Plymouth plant.

'End commitment to road transport,' says pressure group

BY PAUL ELLMAN

TRANSPORT 2000, the transport pressure group which links 23 organisations, yesterday urged the Government to transfer £400m. from road building to other forms of transport.

Speaking at the group's annual meeting in Birmingham, Mr. Mike Harris, its operations manager, said events in the Middle East have forced the Western world to end its "commitment to, and love affair with, the car and the lorry."

Only massive investment in all forms of public transport, particularly in urban areas, can keep society mobile, he said.

This money could be found by reducing the current roads bill from £1,000m. to £600m. and spending the balance on railways, buses, inland waterways and coastal shipping.

"It is nonsense that the Prime Minister should say that the roads programme will be exempt from cuts in public expenditure allied to Phase Three policies," Mr. Harris said.

He said it was "equally incredible" that Mr. John Peyton, the Minister for Transport Industries, should have stated that public transport spending will be cut.

Transport 2000 welcomed reports that spending on railways is to be increased by some £100m. annually over five years.

But this would still leave British Rail short of the £300m. Transport 2000 views as the essential target.

The London Transport Passengers Committee, meanwhile, has announced it will meet Mr. Peyton on Monday to express its grave concern at the difficulties being caused by London Transport's staff shortage.

● Further restrictions on parking in Central London come into force on Monday to discourage people from using cars for Christmas shopping.

London's joint traffic executive said the yellow line parking ban in 50 main streets is to be extended from 6.30 p.m. to midnight on Mondays to Saturdays and from 1.30 p.m. to midnight on Sundays. The first 60 feet of adjoining streets are also affected by the ban.

The executive, which urges motorists to leave their cars at suburban stations, is also extending the evening parking ban to two suburban areas, Wimbledon and Bromley.

Pay Board challenge to Clay Cross

By John Wyles, Labour Reporter

THE REBEL Clay Cross council in Derbyshire was yesterday ordered by the Pay Board to stop paying wage increases of more than £5 a week to its 94 manual workers.

The council's 11-man Labour group was discussing last night whether to ignore the Board's Order and so mount a second challenge to Government policy. A refusal to raise council house rents under the Housing Finance Act has already led to a £7,000 surcharge being imposed on the councillors.

But defiance of the Pay Board would not lay the councillors open to separate individual penalties since the Order has been served on the Clay Cross urban district council. It would be up to the Attorney-General to decide whether there should be any prosecution of the council if payment of the wage increases continues.

The council ignored a 14-day warning notice issued by the Board on October 16 and refused to block increases on the manual workers' flat-rate bonus amounting to between £5 and £6 a week which it had been paying since September 28.

Yesterday's Order was issued because the payments flout the Government's Pay Code on two grounds. They were above the Stage Two £1 plus 4 per cent. limits and broke the rule limiting workers to one principal increase within 12 months.

Clay Cross workers received pay rises under a national settlement in November 1972, and are due for further increases under a new wage deal covering 900,000 local government manual workers which is currently under negotiation.

● The Pay Board yesterday gave a 14-day warning that it would issue an Order blocking 20p-an-hour pay rises for 115 manual employees at G. P. Banbury, a Croydon precision engineering concern.

APPOINTMENTS

Group changes at Associated Engineering

The following Board appointments have been made in member companies of the ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING GROUP.

Mr. D. W. Upton, formerly works manager of the Wellworthy Ampress factory, has been appointed works director, piston product group.

Mr. B. C. Wynn, formerly secretary of Associated Engineering Developments, has been appointed financial director and secretary.

★

Mr. M. A. C. Perry has resigned as joint managing director of G. PERRY AND SONS, a member of the Weir Group. He will remain a director and will continue to serve the company as a consultant. Mr. A. J. Bunting becomes managing director. He was formerly joint managing director with Mr. Perry. Mr. W. A. Joyles and Mr. J. Parkin have been appointed directors. They will remain joint sales managers.

★

Mr. Jack Storey has been appointed works director of CHARLES CHURCHILL, Tube Investments' machine tool manufacturing and home sales operation. Mr. Brian Tayler becomes director of industrial engineering.

★

Mr. J. P. Mervis has resigned as a director of HAW PAR BROTHERS INTERNATIONAL from December 31, and is returning to the U.K.

Mr. R. A. H. Brand has been appointed a director of the company. Mr. G. E. Mapp and Mr. C. N. R. Stocks, overseas non-executive directors of Haw Par, have resigned to further the policy of maintaining a predominantly executive Board with the majority of the directors resident in Singapore.

Haw Par Merchant Bankers has made the following Board appointments: Mr. C. W. MacKinnon has been appointed a director, together with Mr. I. R. Jardine and Mr. Richard Eu Yee Ming.

Mr. D. E. Ogilvy Watson has resigned as a director of Slater Walker Australia.

★

Changes within the rod division of the DELTA METAL GROUP have been made stemming from the impending retirement of Mr. H. E. Wheeler, the division's engineering director.

Mr. M. I. M. Watson will succeed Mr. Wheeler as engineering director and will also assume responsibility for the computer department. Mr. H. D. Baer, currently director and general manager of Delta Rods (West Bromwich), will succeed Mr. Watson as managing director of Delta Wire. Mr. Ian Beattie becomes chairman of Delta Tubes and remains managing director of Delta Capillary Products.

Mr. L. S. Ludlam, director and general manager of Delta Rods (Wolverhampton), will become responsible also for the West Bromwich plant, assisted by Mr. Bruce Appleton as resident factory manager. This reorganisation will be completed early in 1974. Mr. Wheeler will then be engaged on special projects within the rod division until his retirement.

★

Mr. S. F. Wheatcroft and Mr. D. H. Glover have been re-appointed as full time members of the BRITISH AIRWAYS BOARD. Professor Sir Ronald Edwards, Mr. P. Parker and Mr. A. W. Fisher are re-appointed as part-time members. These re-appointments take effect from January 1.

Sir Arthur Norman, on completing his present term at the end of this year, will retire as a part-time member.

Under the Civil Aviation Act, 1971, the British Airways Board has to consist of between 8 and 15 members. As a result of these re-appointments there will be 14 members from January 1.

★

Mr. David S. Perkins, regional controller in the export division of HOOVER, and Mr. Stewart J. Robertson, continent division executive, have been appointed associate directors of the company.

★

Mr. K. Ahmed, secretary of ADAMS FOODS, is appointed financial director. Mr. Alan Boardman, previously a departmental director (commercial) joins the main Board as operations director. Mr. Eric Doorbar, previously a departmental director (sales) joins the main Board and is also appointed as managing director of the group's UHT milk subsidiary, Lloyd's Dairies.

Mr. Andrew Brochwicz-Lewinski has been appointed to the Board and also becomes managing director of Elkes Biscuits Limited.

★

Mr. G. H. Freeman has been appointed to the Board of CHARLES WINN (VALVES).

★

Mr. D. A. R. Fachiri has been appointed technical director of NMW COMPUTERS.

★

LONDON TRANSPORT has made the following appointments from January 7.

Mr. P. E. Garbutt, at present director of transportation policy, will become secretary to the executive in succession to Mr. W. E. G. Hewings, who is retiring. Mr. E. R. Ellen, at present director of transportation planning, has been appointed chief policy liaison officer. He will take over from Mr. Garbutt responsibility for London Transport's consultancy service. Dr. D. A. Quarmby, director of operational research, will become chief commercial and planning officer.

U.K. CONSUMERS' VOICE AT EEC

Mr. Anthony Dumont, vice-chairman of the Consumers' Association, has been appointed to the consumer consultative committee of the EEC Commission.

There are 25 members of the committee, of whom three represent the Bureau of European Consumer Unions. Mr. Dumont, one of the three Britons on the committee, is one of these.

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17 1973

Bad week for markets

ANOTHER TROUBLED week for Wall Street has been an even worse one for the London stock market, with the FT 30-Share Index dropping from 430 at the beginning of the week to a low of just over 391 on Thursday before a moderate rally. The stage was well set for a break even before the news on Tuesday sent the market into complete disarray. The behaviour of Wall Street, which plunged sharply at the end of last week, was itself alarming: the mood of despondency arising out of the protracted U.S. political upset has been reinforced first, by fears that the U.S. economy may be heading downwards of its own accord and second, by suggestions that shortages of oil may lead to widespread industrial disruption.

The sharp gyrations yesterday on Mr. Nixon's reported suggestion that the oil embargo might soon be lifted is sufficient evidence of the scope for violent price movements in the present atmosphere.

At home, there have been other reasons for serious disquiet among investors. First, there is the oil situation: although the risk of disruption caused by shortages has until now caused less apprehension than in the U.S., it has helped to colour the background of a situation in which the steep price rise that has already taken place will make the closing of the trade gap and the control of inflation both more difficult. Second, there is a growing danger of industrial unrest, exemplified by the action of the miners. Third, the latest economic indicators—a very sharp jump in bank advances announced last week, a very sharp jump in industry's raw material costs at the beginning of this and yesterday's price index—were beginning to suggest that the calculations on which Stage Three was based had already become irrelevant.

Sterling rate

The precautionary declaration of a state of emergency on Tuesday was not therefore a complete surprise. Nor, once the dismal trade figures for November were announced were the monetary measures which accompanied them. Not only has the whole level of interest rates been levered suddenly up, in fact, but a tight squeeze has been imposed on the supply of credit. Despite the relatively calm reaction of the Confederation of British Industry and repeated Ministerial denials that these measures will discourage the growth of capital investment or constitute a "stop," there has clearly been a sudden change in the direction of policy.

The change, which is the more severe for being delayed, is due to a number of factors apart from vague threats of oil shortage or industrial unrest. In particular, the money supply has been rising much too fast for too long and the rise in oil prices has offset much of the economic benefit the Government was hoping to gain from an improvement in the terms-of-trade. The promptness of its reaction to the trade figures, moreover, was undoubtedly influenced by a wish to prevent a run on sterling.

Monetary side

Much of the weakness of the market on Thursday, after the initial reaction to the news had already taken place, was due to a feeling that more measures might be on the way and to rumours that an official statement was imminent. The rumours proved to be false and the Prime Minister has denied that an autumn Budget is in preparation; but the Chancellor has given another warning of his readiness to adapt policy to circumstances and there is no doubt that the cuts in public expenditure to which he had already referred will now have to be made effective. The market must remain uneasy for the moment, poised between fears of industrial unrest, oil shortage and currency trouble in the short run and of a world-wide slackening in economic growth, precipitated by the shortage of oil, to follow.

Whatever the oil supply situation, however, the rise in its price and our domestic economic difficulties remain to be dealt with. Provided that there is no further dramatic worsening of the situation, it is probable that the Government has now done as much as it will do on the purely monetary side and the prospect for gilt-edged prices is not unfavourable. Industrial share prices, though likely to be steadied by an improvement in gilts, must remain vulnerable until the major uncertainties ahead of us on the industrial, economic and political fronts begin to lift. But there is a considerable volume of money waiting to be invested as soon as circumstances justify such a decision.

The move to free banking for the personal customer

BY MICHAEL BLANDEN

COMPETITION BETWEEN the banks for the favours of the ordinary customer-in-the-street has once again taken on a new dimension. The latest measures to control the money supply have curbed the banks ability to compete on lending and so have deprived them of one of the main weapons they have been able to use for attracting new personal business over the past two years. The considerable reduction in bank charges which have been made by virtually all the big banks in stages during the past few months therefore takes on extra importance.

The banks are well aware of the need to go on providing a service which will keep their personal customers happy, even if some of their actions in recent years may have led some customers to doubt this. The personal customer is important to them on at least two counts. Lending to the personal sector, whether on overdraft or on fixed-term personal loans, is in normal times profitable business for the banks, and an area in which until recently they had been happy to see considerable expansion. The private customer moreover remains a significant source of funds for the banks both on current account (where the cost to the banks is not related to going interest rates) and on deposit account.

Cormac McCarthy

BANK CHARGES

	CREDIT BALANCE (minimum)		CHARGE (per item)	OFFSET ALLOWANCE (average balance)
NATWEST SYSTEM	£50		NIL	5% p.a.
	£0-50		CREDIT ENTRIES NIL	
			DEBIT ENTRIES 7p	
WILLIAMS & GLYN'S SYSTEM			AUTOMATED TRANSFERS 6p	5% p.a.
			OTHER ENTRIES 8p	

	CREDIT BALANCE (average)	NO. OF DRAWINGS PER HALF-YEAR	CHARGE (per item)	OFFSET ALLOWANCE (average balance)
"GROUP CHARGES" SYSTEM	£100 or more	FIRST 30	NIL	5% p.a. above £100 (VARIES BETWEEN BANKS)
		ADDITIONAL DRAWINGS	7½p	
	£50-100	FIRST 30	2½p	
		ADDITIONAL DRAWINGS	7½p	
	Less than £50	FIRST 30	5p	
		ADDITIONAL DRAWINGS	7½p	

Personal loans

This week's official moves mean that credit is going to be both harder to come by and considerably more expensive. As a result of the extra 2 per cent. call on special deposits, there is no doubt that the big banks will have to look even more selectively and critically at requests for loans. The personal customer will be one of those most affected by such restraint, particularly since even before the latest moves there was an official request to the banks to reduce the rate of growth in lending.

The sharp rise in the Bank of England minimum lending rate (successor to Bank rate) has been accompanied by a uniform jump in the base rates of the clearing banks to 13 per cent.; this means that any personal customer lucky enough to get an overdraft from now on will be paying up to 17 or 18 per cent. for the privilege. But for the time being at least, an element of competition has been retained among the banks over the terms on which they offer fixed-rate, fixed-term personal loans.

Midland Bank responded immediately by pushing its personal loan rate up from a flat 8 per cent. to 10 per cent. (equivalent to a true rate of around 19 per cent.). Other banks have not yet moved on this question, and personal loans are still available from National Westminster at 7½ per cent. flat (around 14½ per cent. true) and at 8 per cent. flat (some 15 per cent. true) from Lloyds and Barclays.

It is unlikely, however, that this disparity can last for very long. The scope for competition among the big banks in this area is therefore substantially reduced. And while clearing bank loans, even at current rates, may remain cheap in relation to other sources of credit such as hire purchase, effective competition for business is not going to be very easy, either between the banks or against other competitors such as the instalment credit houses or the money shops, as long as lending is restricted.

At the same time, the distinction between deposits of under and over £10,000 has been maintained. A customer who can muster over £10,000 to put in a bank deposit account can be paid the going rate on his funds—currently 11½ per cent. For customers with less than that—which must account for a considerable number of the private customers of the banks—the rate is still limited to 9½ per cent. in order to protect the building societies against aggressive competition for funds.

Interest rates

The banks must therefore be casting around for new ways of competing for business, and the level of bank charges may prove to be one of the most important of these. Two main factors have been at work in the cuts made so far. One was the new climate of competition and the elimination of the old bank "cartels," which made it possible for the banks to break away from long-standing agreements and go their own ways on charges.

Of more immediate importance was the rapid growth of the banks' profits as a result of high interest rates and the embarrassing implications of this in the context of prices and incomes policy. This prompted the banks to think of ways of passing at least some of their profits back to their customers. Barclays, for example, which this week announced an increase from 2½ to 5 per cent. in the offset allowance which it gives against personal current account charges, reckons to have cut personal charges by some £8m. altogether this year—£7m. for the full year from its reform earlier this year of its system of charges and another £1m. for the current half-year as a result of the interest rate offset.

As well as simply bringing lower charges to customers, these changes represent a quiet revolution in banking. For the first time all the big clearing banks now have a single, public and fixed tariff of charges for their personal current accounts. This replaces the old variety of systems which made it difficult for the individual to discover how his charges were arrived at.

The level of charges has also started to become an important marketing tool in its own right. National Westminster admitted, when it recently announced its promised major reform of its charging system, that its previous methods (widely known to be relatively expensive at the time) might have had something to do with the disappointing growth in its customer accounts in recent months. It is probable therefore that further use will be made of this marketing tool, with more changes in tariffs in the months to come both to cut charges and, as Barclays has promised, to simplify further the system.

As the situation stands at present, Williams and Glyn's and National Westminster, with quite different systems, probably have the edge in terms of simplicity of their method of working out charges. Williams and Glyn's, with a system introduced for the end-September quarter, was then among the cheapest. It retains the advantage of its low charge for standing orders (automated transfers) of 6p a time against 8p for other entries in the account. Against this, it is now the only one of the five major London clearers to charge for credit entries. This (not perhaps entirely logically) has now been dropped by all the big four.

Credit balance

NatWest's recently introduced system also has a very simple structure. It has the advantage (from the point of view of being easy for customers to understand) of being based around the magic figure of a *minimum* credit balance of £50. Provided a customer never runs his account below that level—something it should be easy for him to monitor—he gets free banking.

Against this, some banks argue in favour of the *average* credit balance basis (used by NatWest itself in calculating its 5 per cent. offset allowance) as possibly more favourable to many customers. People who keep a minimum of £50 in their accounts will have a substantially higher average credit balance—probably in many cases over the £100 figure which features in the system at present used, with variations, by the other three major London clearing banks.

This system can for convenience be called "group terms" (it originated with the special terms agreed among the banks for customers whose wages or salaries were paid directly into their accounts). The basis is that 30 free drawings are allowed each half-year provided an average credit balance of £100 is maintained. Additional drawings cost 7½p a time, while with balances below £100 an extra charge is imposed for up to 30 drawings a half-year. On top of this, an offset allowance is made on average balances above £100, recently raised to 5 per cent. by Lloyds and Barclays and still at 3 per cent. at the Midland. Lloyds, exceptionally, also makes an extra charge of 5p a time for standing order payments.

The advantages of the various systems for any given customer depend to a considerable extent on the nature of his account—the balances held, the level of activity, and the likelihood of being overdrawn. But for an increasing number of customers the changes have meant that they will pay no charges at all. NatWest reckoned this would be true of 3m. out of its 4m. current account customers and Barclays expected that about three-quarters of those personal customers who maintain their accounts in credit would pay no charges.

The changes, and the probability of further changes, raise the question of why the banks should not go the whole hog and either eliminate charges to personal customers altogether or, like some of the smaller banks, pay interest on current accounts. There are, however, objections on both scores. Paying interest on current accounts, it is argued, would be expensive for the banks—NatWest commented that a 5 per cent. general payment would cost it about £100m. a year—and to match the present tax-free offset allowance, substantially higher rates would be needed before tax.

Across the board

There is also resistance within the banks to removing charges across the board on the grounds that there should continue to be some discrimination between customers of the kind which the banks want to encourage and those—for example the people who require a great deal of work in handling the paper created by a large number of transactions on their accounts — who are likely to cost the bank money.

Given the present climate of competition in banking, however, even more of this caution may be thrown to the winds as the banks seek to promote their personal customer services. This brings at least the prospect of further cuts in the cost of having a bank account.

Letters to the Editor

Immoral Gains tax

Sir,—Mr. Wilshire (November 13) points out the injustice of Capital Gains Tax in that sometimes the capital profit can be shown to be no more than the effect of inflation on the original capital in that the purchasing power of the proceeds is equal to (or less than) the original purchase value. I wonder whether we should be all that sympathetic with Mr. Wilshire because the point he makes is perhaps also true of other forms of taxation?

The wage earner, if he earned £20 per week in 1965, may well be earning nearer £40 per week to-day. However, he pays income-tax on his current wage, while the purchasing power of his earnings may well be the same (or less) as in 1965. Might there not be more of a case for raising the minimum proceeds on which Capital Gains Tax is payable during any one year, that is, £500 set in 1971, in the same way that income-tax and estate duty allowances and reliefs have been increased from time to time?

L. E. Thomas.
63, Pine Walk,
Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.

Heads into the sand

Sir,—There are no grounds for contradicting a single word of Mr. Wilshire's letter (November 13): the law is such that we pay tax on "real" losses.

Unfortunately, there is not the slightest prospect of the law being changed by this Government, as the impact, if any, on the voters would be adverse. There is also little hope for the future so long as the Inland Revenue has the legislator's ear, as nothing sends the Inland Revenue's head into the sand quicker than mention of inflation.

From the taxpayer's viewpoint matters are made worse by the court's ruling on exactly this question, in the Revenue's favour in Secretan v. Hart. The malignancy of the cancer of inflation can be seen most sharply by how dated the judgment in that case appears only four years later. Apart from the change in climate, which itself could not justify taking a case in the hope of reversing Secretan v. Hart, the Judge said that as the Act stated that the original amount in money given for the acquisition was to be deducted from the proceeds, one could not deduct something else. If it was intended that any adjustment should be made, the Act would have said so. However, I do not believe that there is any specific instruction to convert if an asset is purchased in Deutchemarks and sold in Yen. There is a presumption that one compares like with like, yet this does not apparently extend to sterling of 1965 and sterling of 1973. Yet some may remember the country's derision at Mr. Wilson's pound-in-your-pocket speech.

The capitalist's unacceptable fate is thus sealed for the time being unless he is prepared to risk the costs of at least going to the Court of Appeal and possibly the House of Lords, and losing. It would, of course do no harm for every capital gains tax assessment to be appealed against on the grounds that it was inconsistent with reality, but the British in general will continue to pay up rather than display a lack of apathy.

R. M. Goodrich.
Greentiles,
Pine Coombe, Croydon.

Agency nurses

Sir,—Mr. Law's letter (November 10) prompted me in wishing to put forward another viewpoint.

Recently at a London hospital I asked the friend who I was visiting to explain a coloured belt worn by a nurse, he explained it was an agency nurse.

I was further informed that the nurse concerned had only completed her training some weeks earlier in the very same ward where she was now employed as an agency nurse and at a far higher remuneration.

Hospitals are doing a great job as are all the doctors, nurses and other staff. They have tremendous problems staffwise but surely Mr. Law is not advocating that the hospital ward should become like the London office which is staffed largely by agency staff with only an apparently one-sided benefit.

G. A. W. Starling.
49, Treadwell Road,
Epsom, Surrey.

Unregistered accounts

Sir,—Much time has been spent recently in discussion of the proposed move of Company's House to Wales. I wonder if any of your readers have had similar problems to myself. I have tried to get the accounts of a Northern Ireland private company only to find that under Section 122 para 4 of the Companies Act Northern Ireland 1960, private companies do not even register accounts. So much for the increased moves towards accountability among companies.

B. H. White.
11, Cherry Tree Road, N.2.

Battery cars

Sir,—Please permit me to devastate Mr. L. Seed's arguments (November 13) that the battery car is no solution to city traffic.

The "power" requirement is only high at high speeds where there are vast losses due to wind—and rolling—resistances. At lower speeds, a given amount of "power" will either provide violent acceleration or balance resistive losses to provide some maximum speed, or between these two limits a practical balance may be chosen by alteration of effective transmission ratio, at, say, the back axle.

In the city, speed is limited anyway, even on approach roads: apart from the fact that the average driver appears incapable of handling safely the full available acceleration of the more stodgy family saloon, the opportunities of doing so in the city are nil, and the proportion of available power actually used in city work is quite small.

Thus neither high speed nor vast acceleration are permissible in practical terms, and the required power level is really quite low, much lower than the average family saloon possesses: certain types of electric motor exhibit the kind of low speed torque required for initial acceleration.

The more real problem is the limitation of range due to the low ratio of energy storage to weight. This can be improved two-fold given means for rapid charging in the city, so that either the operational range can be doubled or half-size batteries used for an unchanged outcome, with a consequent reduction of primary cost and materials consumption.

The principles required by such a charging means, user-proof and benevolent to the battery, are at last proven possible: the physical development of such a system could have been completed had the taxation of the inventor been realistic rather than punitive.

James A. MacHarg.
16, Elmfield Park, Gosforth,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

State occasions

Sir—As a nation we excel at State occasions and coverage of them must be a valuable export, while to have every woman in the country crouched over a TV set at least temporarily stopped them spending borrowed money on imports.

Might not this be an appropriate time, just after the publication of the Kilbrandon report, to establish a tradition for obligatory State funerals for leaders of governments which fail to keep their promises to the electorate. Foreign television rights, and the effects on the democratic process, would surely be beneficial.

C. J. Fell.
Crown House,
Newport, Essex.

Make use of people

Sir,—In reporting on the great energy displayed and on the heavy work load carried by 75-year-old Prime Minister Mrs. Golda Meir, you have highlighted the great paradox of our time.

A 58-year-old Government Minister is termed an "up-and-coming youngster," while his counterpart in industry and commerce is regarded as ripening for the scrap heap. Indeed, politicians and trade union leaders vie with each other to guide their charges into ever earlier retirement, regardless of their state of health, accumulated skills and knowledge—(after all, in ancient Sparta, the over-forties were too old to be permitted survival!)

Retirement for what?

Surely the time has arrived for an industry-sponsored intensive, high level, priority research programme into human motivation and energy resources, relative to the retirement age, and function before we permit our despots to wreak havoc—with possibly the best of intentions—with the accumulated human energy resources.

David Kut.
David Kut and Partners,
Rosebery House,
Tottenham Lane, N.8.

The week in Munich

Sir,—As a resident of Munich it has given me a good deal of pleasure to see how successfully the British Week has been organised. In particular the contribution made by Princess Margaret has been outstanding and not only did she endear herself to the local citizens but very effectively brought the British presence and goods in the city to the forefront.

Disappointing to me, particularly in the light of the professional way in which British Week has been promoted, is the relative absence of British goods for sale which was the prime reason for the occasion. This is not to denigrate the efforts of a handful of British manufacturers who have obviously taken full advantage of the opportunity but to highlight that at a time when the opportunities to compete effectively in Germany must be greater than ever before, so few manufacturers have found it worthwhile to take part.

One reads of an overheated economy in the U.K. but unless the present opportunity to export to Europe is used to full advantage, we shall fail to gain the trading foothold which is so vital to the U.K. playing a larger part in the fortunes of the Common Market.

H. A. A. Smith.
8 München 40,
Schwedenstr. 4/1.

Only one face

Sir,—Lord Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, while castigating you for allegedly misquoting the Prime Minister, says (November 3): "A quick reference to Hansard will show that his words were 'An unacceptable face . . .'" I have referred quickly to Hansard. It shows quite clearly that your reporter's use of the definite article was accurate.

I suggest Lloyd-George takes his own advice and checks his facts before publishing criticisms which reflect adversely on the professional reputations of others.

Robin Findlay.
10, Glebe Road, Cheam, Surrey.

Remarkable progress

Sir,—It was pleasing to see Bryan Platt (November 13) giving credit to the Agricultural Training Board for remarkable progress.

At the moment, I am participating in the "Man Management—Human Relations and Communications" course at the ATB Training Centre at the National Agricultural Centre, so am surprised to see him state that "no provision is made for teaching the skills of leadership and arts of communication."

Due to demand, these courses have been regularly held for the past two years. Perhaps he would like to praise the Agricultural Training Board even more.

C. J. Whitney.
Woolhope Cockshoot,
Ledbury, Hereford.

National Theatre plays for profit

BY MICHAEL THOMPSON-NOEL

ENT survey indicated · long-term future of at ne commercial London was in some state of y. In utter contrast, ional Theatre at the Old ere Peter Hall has just ed Lord Olivier as direc- urrently celebrating one most rousingly success- ies of its career.

ies of outstanding pro- s (*Jumpers, Long Day's Into Night, Front Page, anthrope*) really packed . The National's last re- ows that in 50 weeks at Vic, spanning 356 per- es, the company played tal paying audience of (94 per cent. of) for receipts of (91 per cent. of). The result was that tional was able to cut icit from £140,284 to without in the slightest compromising artistic is—a *tour de force* in-

ccessful

1970-71 the National Company was £57,000 red; the following year £80,000. The turnround ith its decision to con- in the period before its to its new South Bank a one-theatre policy: that ive up its lease on the eatre in the West End upy only the Old Vic.

atrick Donnell, the ad- ative director, explains, ision coincided with two brilliantly successful productions—*Jumpers*, by Tom Stoppard, and *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. "If we all knew what plays would succeed we would all be millionaires," says Mr. Donnell. "Even the commercial theatre makes some very big mistakes." *Jumpers* was introduced into the repertoire at the start of 1972. It was by no means bound to succeed. But it did. And, together with Laurence Olivier's huge success in *Long Day's Journey Into Night*—which was recorded for television and cassette by ATV at Elstree and networked throughout Britain and the U.S.—it launched the National on a lucrative box-office run.

Can it continue? Whatever the views of playwright John Osborne, who in an interview yesterday accused the National of "international gimmicks . . . it becomes airport culture to have an Italian direct a lot of English actors and turn them into Italians" (a reference to Zeffirelli's *Saturday Sunday Monday*), the National in the past 18 months has achieved a fusion of critical and commercial success which is going to be very hard to follow, particularly as next year the company embarks on a strenuous production schedule of around 10 plays in readiness for its move, in the first half of 1975, to the South Bank.

Each of the 10 productions will have a limited, overlapping run, and it is intended that the best of them form the basis for the repertoire when the company moves to Prince's Meadow. They include *The Tempest*; *Eden End* (to mark J. B. Priestley's 80th birthday, and to be directed by Lord Olivier); *Spring Awakening*; *Next of Kin* (written by John Hopkins and directed by Harold Pinter): a new play by Peter Nichols, provisionally titled *The Freeway*; Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman* (to be directed by Peter Hall); plus a Shaw and a Greek play. There will also be two mobile productions, probably including *Dr. Faustus*.

The best of these will form the repertoire for the three theatres in the South Bank complex: the Olivier Theatre (with 1,100 seats and an open amphitheatre stage, which will be the National Theatre Company's own home for 48 to 50 weeks of the year); the Lyttleton Theatre (with 800 seats and a removable proscenium stage); and the Cottesloe Theatre (with room for up to 400 seats.

Lord Olivier, who has just been succeeded as director of the National Theatre by Peter Hall, in "Long Day's Journey into Night."

Now comes the crunch. The National currently employs around 45 actors and actresses, although this number will approximately double when the Company moves to the South Bank. But for 1974's huge schedule of productions the Company is being "streamed," which means that some artists are being allocated to one production, some to another.

Actors will be paid only while their production is "on stream," and as virtually all of them—next year—will be limited to one production, all will need to find some outside work to see them through. "This is all right for middle- to top-range artists," says Mr. Donnell. "They can more easily work for television. It is not such a good arrangement for artists lower down the scale."

The change has led to a certain amount of acrimony and what Mr. Donnell describes as "tough negotiations" with Equity. The result has been that the National has agreed that within four weeks of the opening of any individual production next year, the artists involved will be told whether or not it will be transferring to the South Bank in 1975.

They will then have the option to accept a contract, or to go. The important thing is that artists will know where they stand. The National also says that it plans to phase out its present payments scheme, under which artists receive a basic sum plus performance fees, and revert to regular salaries. A young actor at the National currently earns around £30 a week—£25 basic plus £1.50 per performance. Top-flight artists earn around £5,000 a year, which as one administrator admits is "disgracefully low—sometimes the technical staff can earn as much as that."

Audience

The availability of work in 1974 is only a short-term problem; after next year the size of the company will double, and the level of total employment on the South Bank, counting foreign, fringe and regional artists, will be treble that at the Old Vic.

The real problem will be the move to the South Bank complex in 1975, and the start-up of operations. The South Bank Theatre was first budgeted at £7.8m. in 1969. The latest revised cost is "in excess of £10m.," of which the Government is currently committed to providing £5.7m. and the Greater London Council £4.1m. The GLC also provided the site, worth at least another £5m. to £6m., and built the car park.

"Our figures for 1975-76 are pretty well accepted," says Mr. Donnell, which means that both the Arts Council and the GLC appreciate what is in store. The start-up figures for the South Bank are based on audience capacities of only 75 per cent., so there is room for manoeuvre. "It's a marvellous building with marvellous facilities," says Mr. Donnell, "and we hope that it will be relatively simple to attract people." The plan is to ask for supplementary grants to cover the visits of regional repertory groups and to seek sponsors for visiting overseas productions.

For the transitional year, 1974-75, the National has come to an agreement with the Arts Council and the Greater London Council, its principal benefactors, whereby it will be able to operate, virtually, on an open-ended budget. Costs will be difficult to estimate and it has been agreed that the National's grants for next year will be both flexible and realistic.

Sales

"On a normal basis," says Mr. Donnell, "we negotiate with the Arts Council and put forward a series of figures. The Arts Council then says what it is likely to provide. Because there is usually a gap, we go back and rebudget within the scale of the grant."

For 1972-73 the Arts Council and the GLC provided a total of £558,913, and the National itself imposed certain cuts on its spending, such as design disciplines and "blocking" the repertoire in order to avoid costly week-end changing of sets.

In readiness for 1975, the National is beefing up its administrative team. With around 2,400 seats to sell each evening, instead of the Old Vic's 870, there will have to be a big sales drive. The National has recently appointed a personal assistant to the general manager; a deputy accountant, and a chief for the mailing list department. In readiness for the move to the South Bank the mailing list has been built up to over 30,000. Postal applications at the start of the National's most recent booking period, says Mr. Donnell, were the best ever.

But imponderables remain. "Our relations with Equity are in good state," Mr. Donnell says, "but our relations with the technicians' unions are in embryo. The plan is to introduce regular hours of work, and to rehearse at sociable times and avoid all-night stage fit-ups; we also want to go for proper salaries and avoid overtime. But unions hate change."

Work on the South Bank site is going smoothly enough, but no one cares to forecast the cost or the repercussions of any national building disputes.

Still, that's looking on the bleak side. For the past two years the National has enjoyed a charmed existence. Here's to many years more.

abour News

ournalists unions to ash in court

OHN WYLES, LABOUR REPORTER

OURNALISTS unions will the National Industrial s Court on Monday when titute of Journalists will the National Union of ists of committing an industrial practice under ustrial Relations Act.

ase stems from the pro- journalists pay dispute this week has hit more 0 regional weekly and apers.

,000 member Institute, a ed union, is seeking an to prevent an alleged y the NUJ of the rights viduals to choose which nion they wish to belong e IOJ also alleges that JJ has tried to induce s of contract of ists and of the National al Association.

complaints refer to events es of John H. Burrows at Southend and at the ton Evening Dispatch— arts of the Westminster roup.

ike by more than 80 NUJ rs at Burrows has halted tion of three South-East newspapers for the past eks. It is understood that 's main complaint stems n alleged demand from kers' leaders that in the the management employ UJ members.

ions between the IOJ e NUJ, a deregistered have been deteriorating he failure of merger talks n the unions more than a year ago. Bitterness has increased during the NUJ strike campaign because IOJ members, mostly senior editorial staff, have worked normally.

IPC may settle dispute with printing unions

HOPES of settling the dispute between six printing unions and the International Publishing Corporation over the proposed closure of two IPC subsidiaries rose yesterday after talks were adjourned until Tuesday.

Meanwhile, redundancy notices affecting 700 workers at two companies, Southwark Offset and Baynard Press—remain withdrawn.

Workers at the two plants are expected to be urged to work normally while talks continue. Industrial action over the issue by Fleet Street workers lost the Daily Mirror production of 1.7m. copies earlier in the week before the redundancy notices were withdrawn.

The Daily Telegraph was not distributed in Kent and the South of England yesterday because of an industrial dispute involving members of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union.

The paper has lost more than 668,000 copies this week because of the disruption.

urham ambulancemen id strike after offer

OUR LABOUR STAFF

AM COUNTY'S 300 ambu- en ended their strike yes- after the county council fered them a rise of £2.58 .

ion ambulancemen's shop ds, however, raised the of a total strike over emand for a new national structure.

Durham ambulance crews on Monday over a local -they claimed they were paid less than crews work- surrounding local authori-

pay offer gives the men a day subsistance grant, n additional 58p a week ift work. Council officials hopeful of Pay Board al for the deal.

the men have not ed to normal working— re now banning all but nt and emergency calls, in t of the call for a new al wage structure.

ondon, shop stewards will nother meeting next week e they are dissatisfied he way their last meeting, ursday was handled; they to ban all but accident mergency cases from Mon-

they want to consider for a complete strike.

eaders of London's 5,000 n agreed yesterday to lift Monday their two-week ign of answering emer- calls only. This followed Greater London Council ng to extend travelling ents and to raise from 0 to £100,000 the amount s into mess funds in pay- for "spoilt meals."

eport is to be drawn up by d of February on reducing orking week from 56 to 48

Manchester firemen are to call for a national strike in support of a demand for higher wages and shorter hours, when a national delegate conference is held in Blackpool to consider a national pay deal giving them more than £6 a week extra.

Ford workers end Dagenham overtime ban

By Our Labour Reporter

ASSEMBLY LINE workers at Ford Motors' Dagenham plant yesterday voted to call off a six-week ban on overtime which has led to production losses worth more than £15m.

The ban has caused production bottlenecks and shortages of labour which Ford claims cut daily output from 1,200 to 400 cars a day. It was called by shop stewards in support of demands for changed lay-off pay arrangements after 8,000 men had been made idle by a strike at the end of September.

Yesterday, a majority of 700 day shift assembly workers voted in favour of a return to normal working, against the recommendation of their shop stewards.

● Output of car-heaters at Smiths Industries, Witney, Oxon., is at a standstill because of a week-old strike by 34 drivers which has caused most of the 1,100 work force to be laid off. The strikers have turned down the company's proposal for a productivity-pay settlement.

Oriel Foods agrees to £10.9m. RCA Corporation bid

BY NICHOLAS OWEN

TERMS HAVE been agreed for a £10.9m. takeover of Mr. James Gulliver's Oriel Foods by the American RCA Corporation. Mr. Gulliver will collect over £2m. pre-tax with the cash deal — against the £1m. or so invested earlier this year — but is staying on as chairman and chief executive.

RCA's approach to Oriel was announced last month, when the company was capitalised at only £6.8m. In the event, an offer of 205p per share cash is being made.

This has the support of the Board and certain other "substantial shareholders" who control 38 per cent. of Oriel. The directors are advising other holders to follow suit.

Supermarket chain

An important aspect of the link-up between the two groups is that, under Mr. Gulliver, Oriel is expected to be the base for RCA's expansion into food operations on the Continent. Oriel itself had been examining prospects in EEC countries, and Mr. Gulliver commented last night that RCA's "financial muscle" would enable the expansion to be undertaken much more quickly.

Mr. Gulliver, who owns just over 1m. shares in Oriel, moved into the group with associates after leaving Associated British Foods' Fine Fare supermarket chain.

"Obviously, at the time I didn't anticipate selling out now," he said. "We had a lot of discussion with RCA and there was ready agreement on objectives."

Rival approaches

Although Mr. Gulliver would not be drawn on whether there had been rival approaches, it seems clear that Oriel did attract tentative proposals from other groups while the RCA talks were going on.

About 80 per cent. of Oriel's sales are derived from food wholesaling and distribution, and the rest from the processing of edible oils. The company has 27 wholesale and cash and carry depots in Britain, including a frozen food distribution business under the name of Snowfield Frozen Foods.

News analysis Page 14.

Government in home loan talks

BY PETER RIDDELL, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT and the building societies took their series of discussions a stage further yesterday with the first meeting of their joint advisory committee. This has been set up to provide continuing forecasts and discussions about the mortgage situation.

No decisions were reached at the meeting, which was largely concerned with the formal business of setting up the committee with the dates of its meetings and with establishing the type of information it would require.

The meeting was attended by seven representatives of the Building Societies Association and civil servants from the Department of the Environment and the Treasury, as well as representatives from the Registrar of Friendly Societies and the Bank of England.

Later in the day the full Council of the Building Societies Association met, but the meeting was solely concerned with various domestic matters and the implications of Tuesday's rise in interest rates was not discussed.

The societies are adopting a "wait and see" attitude and they clearly hope that the move to hold the interest rate on bank savings deposits of under £10,000 to 9.5 per cent. will safeguard their competitive position in attracting funds.

No change in rates is being considered at present and the societies would be very reluctant to lift the mortgage rate above 11 per cent., not only because of the hardship this would cause existing borrowers but also because it would push many potential house-buyers out of the market. At this level effective demand for housing would probably fall and the only reason it has not done so already is probably because of the backlog of demand.

The current receipts position is still encouraging since the net inflow in the first half of November has continued the upward trend of October. Last month, when the investment rate rose to 7.5 per cent., net receipts increased from £22m. to £127m., as announced yesterday.

The basic job of the new joint advisory committee will be to monitor trends in the housing market—the rate of house completions and what this implies for mortgage demand together with the level of interest rates and the flow of funds. The societies clearly hope that by maintaining close and continuing contact they will avoid crises over interest rates like that which developed earlier this year.

The joint advisory committee developed out of discussions held at this time about a stabilisation fund to iron out the swings in mortgage advances. The idea, which was opposed by many societies, has now been dropped so the formation of the committee is partly a confirmation of the independence of the societies against some suggestions for tighter Government control.

In the nine months to the end of October this year the Halifax Building Society, Britain's largest, had a net inflow of £203.5m., slightly less than the equivalent figure last year of £208.2m. Advances of £468m. were completed in this period with a further £135.96m. offered but not completed by the end of October.

Hawker equal pay talks fail

TALKS at national level to settle an equal pay strike by more than 500 clerical workers at two of Hawker Siddeley Aviation's factories in Lancashire broke down yesterday.

The strikers—both male and female—are demanding that women clerks at the Chatterton and Woodford factories should be given a rise of £1.50 a week as a move towards equal pay.

The Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff claims that the rise is permissible outside the confines of Stage Two because it equals a third of the differential between male and female rates for the same job.

Ex-chairman in court to-day on conspiracy charge

BY NICHOLAS OWEN

MR. KENNETH HOWARTH, former chairman of E. J. Austin International—wound up on a Department of Trade and Industry petition—will appear in a City of London court to-day charged with conspiracy to defraud shareholders between 1968 and 1970.

He was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport yesterday after flying in from America with two Scotland Yard detectives. He had returned voluntarily to Britain, and was driven from the airport to Wood Street police station in the City.

All directors of E. J. Austin resigned in 1970 when the company's bank appointed a receiver. A few months later, inspectors appointed by the DTI carried out an investigation of the company and an interim report was published in February last year.

The inspectors, Mr. John Lloyd-Eley, QC, and accountant Mr. Dennis Garrett, said in their report they had been anxious to interview Mr. Howarth. He travelled to California after the receiver's appointment, and although the inspectors went there, they failed to trace him.

In January this year, a creditors' meeting was told police were investigating the E. J. Austin group. The company, which started out as a Cheshire-based building materials business and later branched out into property development and mining, had preferential debts of £49,000, a £432,000 debenture and unsecured liabilities of £505,900.

LORD CARRINGTON FOR YUGOSLAVIA

Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Defence, will visit Yugoslavia from November 26 to 28 at the invitation of General Nikola Ljubicic, Federal Secretary of National Defence.

COMPANY NEWS + COMMENT

Minster Assets six months advance

TAXABLE PROFITS of Minster Assets increased by £353,000 to £1,070,000 in the half-year ended June 30, 1973—almost entirely attributable to the resuts of the Minster Insurance Group.

The full year's results should prove satisfactory, although half-year figures do not necessarily provide an accurate indication of the final outturn, states chairman Mr. A. R. McGibbon.

First half earnings per 25p Ordinary share are shown to have risen from 1.14p to 1.71p.

The interim dividend is unchanged at 8 per cent. gross—5.6 per cent. net. The total for 1972 was 14 per cent., paid on profits of £2.47m.

	1973 £000	1972 £000
	Half year	
Profit before tax.—		
Invest. & banking etc. loss*	173	†264
MIG Invest. income	1,051	750
MIG underwriting	520	240
Lloyd's underwriting	140	125
Insurance broking	172	131
BMA loss	603	798
Applied Art Glass loss	27	66
Associates	—	15
Total	1,070	717
Taxation	495	325
Minorities	1	1
Attributable	584	391
Dividends	490	685

* Investment holding, banking and issuing house activities, etc. † Profit. ‡ Estimated.

Mr. McGibbon says that three areas call for particular mention. British Midland Airways is now out of the inclusive tour market and its remaining BAC 1-11 sub-leased to another operator until the end of March 1975, at a rate which will cover all outgoings relating to this aircraft.

The poor figures for investment holdings, banking, etc., activities are attributable to the waiving of interest due from certain other group companies and as foreshadowed last July, to a disappointing half year for Minster Trust.

Mr. McGibbon explains that the "highly satisfactory" increase in the MIG's income is large attributable to growth of business and to current interest rates and this trend is still evident in the second hald. The underwriting figures represent half of the present estimated results for the year from which "a considerable improvement is anticipated."

First half results of subsidiary Robt. Bradford (Holdings) show an increase from £1.29m. to £2.05m. in the profit, before tax, including £1.65m., against £1.02m attributable to the Minster Insurance Group.

After tax £906,000 (£384,000), the net profit emerges at £1.15m. (£907,000).

● comment

Minster Assets' profits are 50 per cent ahead pre-tax; it stresses that six-months' profits are no real guide to the full year but reckons that earnings overall will produce some growth. The performance so far is a mixture of impressive gains on the insurance side—from investment income and underwriting to broking—offsetting a reduced loss from British Midland and a swing into the red in banking. Both loss-makers may have short-term recovery qualities, so an historic p/e of 17.8 net (at 75½p) has support in a trading context. But Minster's main attractions still look to be a market capitalisation and a net worth of just over and just under £25m. respectively.

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They expect that the full year's result will exceed the taxable profit of £286,240 for 1972-73. An interim dividend of 6.3 per cent. net is declared, equal to 9 per cent. gross against 8.5 per cent. The previous total was 26.25 per cent.

Hammerson earnings increase

PRE-TAX PROFIT of Hammerson Property and Investment Trust increased from £1.22m. to £1.54m. in the half year to June 30, 1973 before tax of £587,764 against £390,772. Previous total was £2.82.

Earnings for the half year are given as 4.69p compared with 4.14p per 25p share.

Minorities take £198,981 (£169,062) and attributable profit is £757,474 against £665,416. After £96,418 (£97,733) deferred interest and other development outgoings written off, available profit was £661,056 compared with £567,683 previously.

Following the retirement of Mr. F. S. Jamieson from his appointment as deputy general manager of Standard Life Assurance, Mr. D. W. A. Donald, general manager of Standard Life, has accepted an invitation to join the Hammerson Board as an additional director. Mr. Jamieson will continue as a director of Hammerson Property.

Alida sees continued uptrend

ON SALES up from £1.3m. to £2.09m. group taxable profit of Alida Packaging advanced from £202,131 to £302,649 for the half year to September 30, 1973.

In July, when first quarter profits were reported to be 33 per cent. ahead of the corresponding period, the directors said that overall prospects looked like producing "another very good year."

	Six months 1973 £	1972 £
Group sales	2,088,319	1,303,533
Profit	302,649	202,131
Taxation	145,000	80,852
Attributable Ordinary	157,649	121,279

The group manufactures polythene film and bags.

Historically, the second half has always shown an improvement over the first and present indications confirm that this trend will continue, the directors now say. For the year ended March 31, 1973, group profit, before tax, was £440,329.

An interim dividend of 12.495p net is declared, equal to 17.85 per cent. gross against 17 per cent. The previous total was 67 per cent.

● comment

The slight decline in margins at Alida has a good deal to do with the fact that last year's two small acquisitions are taking slightly longer to integrate than was at first anticipated. Nevertheless, the interim pre-tax profit advance of 50 per cent. on a 60 per cent. increase in sales is almost up to last year's growth performance. The introduction of the plastic reclamation plant is proving extremely timely in terms of raw material cost savings in the current sellers' market. Accepting a maintained rate of growth, on the basis of last year's half-to-half split one is looking for a full year pre-tax outurn of something like £660,000 and a prospective p/e of around 10¼ at 111p.

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Dividend resumption by Sidroy

LADIES' AND children's light clothing manufacturers Sidroy is returning to the dividend list with a recommendation of 2.1 per cent. net, or 3 per cent. gross, for the year to June 30, 1973. This is subject to treasury permission.

The last Ordinary payment was 2¼ per cent. in respect of 1968-69.

Following the first half profit recovery from £64,316 to £109,361 a group taxable balance up from £158,998 to £185,587 is reported for the full year.

Earnings per 20p Ordinary are shown at 4.6p against 5.03p, but it is pointed out that, due to abnormal tax charges, earnings based on the amount attributable to share holders less the Preference dividend, on a comparable basis for 1972 would be 3.88p.

Sales improved from £3.37m. to £3.86m. The profit is subject to tax £54,000 (£15,000). Sidroy became a subsidiary of U.U. Textiles in July.

Grampian TV ahead

Reporting a first half profit advance from £145,236 to £192,718, the directors of Grampian Television say advertising revenue is likely to remain buoyant for the second half.

Centre Hotels trading satisfactory

Trading to date of Centre Hotels (Cranston) was still satisfactory, subject to the economic uncertainties surrounding the coming winter, Mr. H. J. Edwards, the chairman, disclosed yesterday.

Speaking at the annual meeting, Mr. Edwards also said that the company had sold the Waverley Hotel, in London, for a cash price well in excess of book cost.

This not only improved the cash position, "but will also have a beneficial effect on the company's other hotels in the Bloomsbury area, as the Waverley is no longer being used as an hotel by the purchasers."

The sale also indicated the strong underlying asset value of the company's properties, the majority of which were in excellent city centre positions, Mr. Edwards added.

Boddingtons first half growth

FIRST HALF profit, before tax, of Manchester-based Boddingtons' Breweries expanded from £514,243 to £706,230.

Although the directors are confident that the 1973 year results will exceed last year's record £1,113,831, they stress that the company will be faced with considerable increases in costs, particularly of raw materials.

An interim dividend of 2.1p net per 25p share is declared, equal to 3p gross. It is intended to raise the gross total from 3.33p equivalent, adjusting for a scrip issue, to a maximum permitted 3.5p.

Mr. E. A. Boddington, chairman, says there was a further upward trend in trade in the half year, due not only to the good weather earlier in the year, but also to the continuing and increasing popularity of Boddingtons' locally brewed beer. Sales of the company's own beer rose by substantially more than the national average.

	Half year 1973 £	1972 £
Trading profit	709,062	580,918
Investment income	1,712	861
Profit on sale fixed assets	55,600	13,720
Making	766,374	575,289
Interest charges	42,392	47,306
Depreciation	17,752	13,350
Profit before tax	706,230	514,243

● comment

Boddington's 37 per cent. pre-tax advance is not strictly comparable with that, for example, which recently emerged from Higsons because it takes in an extra three months of the buoyant pre-Stage Two period. Once again, however, the company's volume performance has outstripped the national averages, with a total beer trade increase of 8.1 per cent. to the end of June against a national figure of 3.7 per cent. However, one must anticipate something of a slowdown for the rest of the year. Profits growth of 15 per cent. in the current half would lead to a full year pre-tax figure of just over £1.4m. and a prospective p/e of around 10.8 at 88p.

Staffordshire Potteries' peak order books

So long as some success is achieved in containing inflation and providing there is no prolonged unrest in key industries, or acute shortage of materials Mr. R. A. Harding, chairman of Staffordshire Potteries (Holdings) is looking forward to another satisfactory year.

Currently, order books are at a record level and there is particularly high demand from overseas, he reports.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

		Current payment %	Date of payment	Corresponding div. %	Total for year %	Total last year %
Alida Packaging	int.	17.85(j)	Jan. 7	17	—	67
Boddington Brews.	int.	3†(f)	Jan. 1	1.68*(g)	—(h)	3.33*
Caird (Dundee)	int.	5(p)	Dec. 21	—	—	10
Crosby House	int.	3.5§	Jan. 8	5	—	10.5
Culter Guard Bridge	int.	1.25†(e)	Jan. 10	1	—	2.75
Grampian TV	int.	9(a)	Dec. 10	8.5	—	26.25
Hawtin	int.	5.6§	Feb. 5	8	—	25.2
King and Shaxson	int.	3.06§	Dec. 14	4.38	—	18.38
London & Liver. Tst.	int.	2(n)	—	—	—	—
Marling Inds.	int.	0.35†	—	0.33*	—	1.12*
Minster Assets	int.	5.6§	Dec. 31	8	—	14
Property Invst. & Fin.	int.	3(f)	Dec. 31	—	—	7
Riverview Rubber	2nd int.	10(m)	Dec 7	—	—	12½
Ross Chemical		4.65†(c)	—	1.35	7.43	8.88(d)
Sidroy		3†(b)	Dec. 31	nil	3	nil
Silhouette	int.	7§	Jan. 7	10	—	27½
Turnbull Scott	int.	3.5†§	Dec. 3	5	—	11.07
U.K. Property		4.06†(k)	—	4.25	6.56	6.25

* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † Pence per share. ‡ On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. § Net—equal to last year's gross. (a) Net 6.3 per cent. (b) Net 2.1 per cent. (c) Net 3.275p. (d) 15 months. (e) Net 0.875p. (f) Net 2.1p. (g) In two payments. (h) Gross total 3.5p is forecast. (j) Net 12.495 per cent. (k) Net 2.84375p. (m) For nine months. (n) Net 1.4 per cent. Made Public April 1973. (o) Gross. (p) Net 3½ per cent.

In the year ended June 30, 1973, group profit recovered from £50,000 to £335,000 and, as reported October 26 the dividend is raised from 6.25p to 6.56p gross per 25p share.

The reasons behind the profit increase are: the curing of the dinnerware plant troubles, increased turnover (including exports), effective control of costs, and production of more first quality ware.

The Canadian subsidiaries produced record results and it is intended to further increase sales in the current year. Sales in the U.S. rose but the chairman does not visualise expansion as quickly in this market.

Sales of dinnerware are "excellent" and Mr. Harding foresees this venture producing current year sales of over £1m.

The group's investments in pottery companies have been sold and the proceeds used to improve liquidity.

Meeting Stoke-on-Trent, December 6 at 12.30 p.m.

Culter Guard's upsurge

CURRENT YEAR profit, up from £353,700 to at least £595,800 is indicated by Culter Guard Bridge Holdings, paper manufacturers, etc.

On a turnover of £5.54m., against £4.27m., first half pre-tax profit (to September 30, 1973) expanded from £111,500 to £297,900, and second half profit is budgeted at not less than that of the first half, provided shortages of raw materials do not become any more acute and that the energy crisis does not have too adverse an effect on the business, the directors state.

They report that order books are full.

Net profit for the half-year was £137,900 (£62,900), after tax £160,000 (£48,600) and after taking into account losses of £77,900 for new subsidiaries.

Earnings per 25p share are shown at 1.85p (1.08p) and the interim dividend is lifted to 0.875p net—equal to 1.25p against 1p gross. The gross total for the year to March 31, 1973, was 2.75p.

500% scrip from U.K. Property

GROUP PROFIT, before tax, of United Kingdom Property Company was more than doubled at £845,380, compared with £406,424, for the year to June 30, 1973.

A final dividend of 2.84375p net per 25p share, equal to 4.0625p gross, lifts the total to a maximum permitted gross 6.5625p (6.25p), and a five-for-one scrip issue is proposed. The authorised capital is to be increased from £2m. to £7.5m.

Basic earnings per share are shown at 15.19p (10.23) and at 15.61p (11.31) assuming full conversion of warrants.

Certain major properties were revalued during the year which, with acquisitions, increased the value of group properties to £30.72m. (£19.2m.). Group reserves increased by £5m., principally as a result of share premiums arising on an acquisition £1,869,000 and surplus on property revaluations £2,810,000.

	1972/73 £	1971/73 £
Rents and service	988,953	450,238
Prop. tradg. profits etc.	297,932	156,711
Profits engineering	324,190	47,580
Interest etc.	114,967	28,255
Total income	1,926,042	682,694
Property etc. expenses	378,409	153,155
Interest payable*	1,274,454	228,515
Interest credit†	572,201	97,408
Profit before tax	845,380	406,424
Taxation	368,563	145,149
Minorities	13,969	—
Attributable	470,848	261,275
Extraordinary credits	9,400	52,811
Available for dividends	480,248	314,088
Dividends	162,338	174,602
Balance	317,910	[illegible]

* Excluding interest relating to properties held for resale. † On properties in course of development.

3½% interim by Caird (Dundee)

FOLLOWING LAST August's indications that the first quarter profits were substantially higher, the directors of Caird (Dundee) now report an upsurge from £219,707 to £413,714 in taxable profits for the first six months.

Interim dividends are resumed with a 3½ per cent. net declaration, equal to 5 per cent. gross. For the year to March 31, 1973, the single gross payment was 10 per cent. from profits of £595,000.

The first half profit is after depreciation of £91,685 (£57,624). The taxation charge is £204,000 (nil).

The company recently severed the last link of its long standing engagement in the jute industry. Its activities now cover the spinning and space dying of yarns for the carpet and soft furnishing industries, carpet printing, etc.

● comment

Over the past three halves, Caird's profits have run at £220,000, £375,000 and £414,000 pre-tax and it looks very much as though another year of growth is in prospect. Short-term doubts about U.K. consumer spending growth are a problem for any share associated with the carpet industry but at least Caird has a sizeable export ratio which for 1972-73 was around 30 per cent. At 83p the net p/e on earnings for the past reported 12 months is just over 5 and adequately coping with any fears for a volume downturn in 1974.

Results due next week

Whether next week's company news will be able to restore any confidence to the market after the disappointments of the last few days is by no means certain, but the main results expected next week certainly seem worthy of some close attention. Heading the list are ICI, Bass Charrington and Woolworth with Land Securities, MEPC and Star (Great Britain) close behind. Other results are expected from Sainsbury, W. H. Smith, and Swan Hunter.

ICI's third quarter profits on Thursday seem almost certain to reveal some easing in the rapid growth trend which lifted the half-year pre-tax level from £56m. to £137m. (excluding investment grants). Activity has remained at a high level in the U.K. chemical process industry but with raw material costs racing ahead—in July alone they increased by 4½ per cent.—this sector has been suffering more than most from the current price freeze. So although a fairly substantial rise in annual profits, to perhaps £250m. pre-tax (against £141m.), it still looks on the cards for the current year, the outlook beyond seems rather less bright.

Barr Charrington's preliminary results on Thursday seem certain to reveal a slower rate of growth in the second six months than 31 per cent. improvement achieved in the first half. The interim statement warned that rapidly rising costs, "particularly on property maintenance," would effect second half profits. However, the group should have continued to enjoy good volume growth, particularly in wines, where sales appear to be booming, and a pre-tax total of around £57m. (against £47½m.) is probably a minimum expectation for the year.

Wednesday is expected to bring the third quarter figures from Woolworth plus half-time reports from both W. H. Smith and Sainsbury. Woolworth's chances of higher profits seem to depend largely on whether it will see enough volume growth in the current year to offset the decline in margins which has resulted from its recent move into the consumer durable field. At the half-way stage profits (on a comparable basis) were virtually unchanged on a 13 per cent. rise in sales and although the third quarter may have seen some recovery from a second quarter post-VAT sales slump, full year profits seem unlikely to be much higher than around £44m. pre-tax (against £40.6m.).

Sainsbury and W. H. Smith also seem set to reveal lower margins but that has more to do with Phase Two than anything else. After three months of the current year Sainsbury assured the Price Commission that it would take action to bring its margins into line by the half-year. Nevertheless, the group still seem scapable of some fairly substantial growth and a pre-tax total of £13m. (compared with £11.6m. last time) looks a safe bet for the full year.

W. H. Smith also appears to be enjoying fairly good volume growth at present but some reduction in profit margins looks inevitable this year following the massive jump achieved in 1972-73 this could limit the group's current year pre-tax growth to just 7 per cent. for profits of £10.3m.

The property sector is well represented in next week's company news list with the interim results of Land Securities and the full-year figures of MEPC expected on Tuesday and the half-time profits of Star (G.B.) due on Thursday.

Of these the LSIT results seem likely to attract the most market attention following its recent announcement that in the seven months since its last property revaluation in March, the value of the portfolio rose from £1,028m. to £1,306m.

Shipbuilding profits are dependent on so many imponderables that it is virtually impossible to make any accurate projection of next Monday's preliminary results from Yarrow or Tuesday's half-time figures from Swan Hunter. Both companies look set to reveal very satisfactory improvements: Yarrow's half-time figures in April showed almost doubled profits while Swan Hunter's 1972 results (also in April) revealed a pre-tax rise from £2.88m. to £5.38m. Activity in the shipbuilding sector looks like remaining at a high level for some time but it must be doubtful whether Swan Hunter will be able to maintain its first half growth rate for the full year since the second six months of 1973 will have to bear the full burden of the current industrial action.

Other results expected next week include the nine months figures from Commercial Union and the half-time statement of Godfrey Davis on Monday. Lloyds and Scottish announces its full year profits and Wheatsheaf Distribution its interim results on Wednesday while Thursday is expected to bring the half-year profits of Powell Duffryn and Renold plus the final of Exchange Telegraph. The interim results of Teachers (Distillers) and London and County Securities are due on Friday.

Company	Announcement due	Dividend %* Last year Int.	Final	This year Int.
FINAL DIVIDENDS				
Aberdeen Trust	Wednesday	16½(f)	8(g)	10(h)
Bass Charrington	Thursday	6	[illegible]	7(i)
Belgrave Assets	Monday	—	—	2.857†
J. Brockhouse	Thursday	4	11	6
Sir Joseph Causton and Sons	Tuesday	4	8½	4
Crest Nicholson	Wednesday	9	27	9
Freshbake Foods Holdings	Wednesday	5	9	5
M. J. Gleeson (Contractors)	Thursday	7	13	7.35
Lloyds and Scottish	Wednesday	9	10½	9
Malayan Tin Dredging	Tuesday	10	32	16
MEPC	Tuesday	7	15	7.143
Morgan	Tuesday	5	7	5
Moss Engineering Group	Monday	5	11	5
Northern American Trust	Tuesday	4	7	4
Proprietors of Hay's Wharf	Thursday	2.273	4.545	2.39
Rosehaugh	Thursday	—	8	—
Scottish Investment Trust	Thursday	2.6	6.6	2.6
Southern Malayan Tin Dredging	Tuesday	16	32	16
Stockholders Investment Trust	Tuesday	3	11	4.286
United Industrial	Monday	5	7½	5½
United Wire Group	Thursday	8	12	8
Walmsley (Bury) Group	Friday	5	7	5
Yarrow	Monday	—	7	3(b)
Yorkshire and Lancashire Invest. Trust	Tuesday	2	3½	2(d)
INTERIM DIVIDENDS				
Brickhouse Dudley	Thursday	15	30	
Brunning Group	Tuesday	6½	14½	
Century Securities	Thursday	7½	15	
Chamberlain Phipps	Monday	8	20.35	
Charterhouse Investment Trust	Monday	6	11	
Chesterfield Properties	Monday	4	11½	
C.N.A. Investments	Tuesday	15	15	
William Cook and Sons (Sheffield)	Tuesday	4.375	6.563	
James Cropper	Thursday	5	8	
Cullen's Stores	Wednesday	5	20¢	
Godfrey Davis	Monday	4	11.4	
Ellis and Everard	Thursday	5.208	[illegible]	
Exchange Telegraph Company (Holdings)	Thursday	7.2	15.48	
F.C. Construction (Holdings)	Friday	4½	9.143	
John Folkes Hefo	Wednesday	7½	17.175	
General and Engineering Industries	Tuesday	10.714	19.25(e)	
Gordon Johnson-Stephens (Holdings)	Thursday	—	Nil	
John Harper	Tuesday	4	5(j)	
Hicking Pentecost	Friday	4	8.4	
International Paint	Friday	3	7½	
E. B. Jeavons	Thursday	4	8.6	

Company	Announcement due	Dividend %* Last year Int.	Final	This year Int.
Land Securities Investment Trust	Tuesday	3	7.237	
Lyc Trading	Tuesday	6	10½	
Thomas Locker (Holdings)	Wednesday	4	12.8	
London and County Securities Group	Friday	7½	12½	
Thomas Marshall Investments	Wednesday	6	10.714	
Melville, Dundas and Whitson	Thursday	8	18	
Odex Racasan	Tuesday	4.6	13.775	
P. Panto	Wednesday	8½	10	
Peerage of Birmingham	Tuesday	5	10½	
Porter Chadburn	Tuesday	6	12½	
Powell Duffryn	Thursday	5	11.8	
Renold	Thursday	3	6.098	
Rotaprint	Wednesday	7½	11	
J. Sainsbury	Wednesday	—	—(a)	
Sealed Motor Construction	Thursday	20½(k)	32	
W. H. Smith and Son (Holdings)	Wednesday	3.3	7.186	
Sogomana Group	Wednesday	7	23.929	
Star (Great Britain) Holdings	Thursday	4.5	1.8	
Sunrie Clothes	Monday	8½	13	
S. and U. Stores	Tuesday	7	7	
Swan Hunter Group	Tuesday	2	8½	
Teacher (Distillers)	Friday	6	17.1	
Ultra Electronic Holdings	Wednesday	Nil	Nil	
Walker Crosweller	Wednesday	8	21.2	
Thomas Warrington and Sons	Thursday	6.33	9.766	
Westbrick Products	Thursday	4.8	7.8	
Westpool Investment Trust	Tuesday	5	8	
Wheatsheaf Distribution and Trading	Wednesday	8(e)	15.1	
Zambesia Consolidated Finance	Monday	8	12	
INTERIM FIGURES ONLY				
Commercial Union Assurance	Monday ¶			
Crowden and Keeves	Friday			
Emray	Tuesday			
Hield Brothers	Thursday			
Imperial Chemical Industries	Thursday ¶			
Wace Group	Wednesday			
F. W. Woolworth	Wednesday ¶			

* Adjusted for any intervening scrip issue. † In 15-month period. ‡ Includes 5 per cent. second interim for 15-month period. § Forecast 33.33 per cent. gross total. ¶ Third-quarter figures. (a) Made public July, 1973. Forecast 5.6 per cent. per interim and 10.4 per cent. net final. (b) Forecast 10 per cent. total dividend. (c) Paid in two parts for tax reasons. (d) Forecast maintained final dividend. (e) Includes 3.33 per cent. second interim for 15-month period. (f) Special interim. (g) Second interim. (h) Forecast 16 per cent. final dividend. (i) Forecast 21 per cent. total dividend. (j) Includes 2 per cent. second interim. (k) Includes 5½ per cent. second interim.

UNIT TRUSTS

Atlantic's Linked Income Bond

Atlantic Assurance is now offering its Atlantic Linked Income Bond over a three-year period, though the five-, seven- and 10-year terms are also available. The main point about this bond is that it is linked to current rates of interest as reflected by Local Authority one-year bonds. The guaranteed rate for the first year is guaranteed to be not less than 10.6 per cent. net of basic rate income tax, but thereafter rates will reflect current levels. The surrender value is 95 per cent. of the investment in the first year, rising in the second and third.

● comment

When Atlantic launched the *Linked Income Bond* at the beginning of October, the managers initially promoted the five-year term (they were wary of colecting too much three-year money). However, suitably encouraged by the latest rise in interest rates, they have now introduced a three-year term. The yield on the five-year term, however, is in fact slightly higher in the first year at 11 per cent. For investors who feel that interest rates might eventually go the other way the minimum guarantee of net income is 6.3 per cent. on the three-year bond.

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CITY OF WESTMINSTER

City of Westminster Assurance is offering a Guaranteed Growth Bond with a minimum investment requirement of £500. The period of the bond is ten years and the guaranteed roll-up of gross income is at 13½ per cent. per annum, giving £1,250 at the end of the term. The early surrender benefit is 95 per cent. of the original investment plus 5 per cent. per annum accumulated compound interest on this sum. After ten years the investor can either get his money back, or opt for a life income with a five-year guarantee, or take out a Property Unit Linked Annuity (if he is over 55).

● comment

City of Westminster's Guaranteed Growth Bond offers competitive terms and there is also the option at the end to take out a property linked annuity. In fact, City of Westminster was the first company to launch a property linked annuity and indeed a property bond.

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JASCOT NORTH SEA

Jascot Securities is making an offer of Jascot North Sea this week. The minimum investment is £100 and the charges on the fund are 5 per cent. initially and ½ per cent. per annum. Investment advice is provided principally by stockbrokers, J. and A. Scrimgeour. Gross yield is 2 per cent. which is automatically reinvested.

● comment

The Jascot North Sea trust has been one of the better unit trust performers this year, although in view of the trend of the stock-market this is not saying a great deal. And this week there has been very little excitement in North Sea oil shares, with a dearth of news on the exploration side. What it amounts to is that the trust is a way for the ordinary investor to have an interest in this specialist sector—which could pay off in the long-term.

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HILL SAMUEL'S GIRO PLAN

Hill Samuel Unit Trust Managers has launched a Security Investment Plan designed specifically for Giro account holders. The aim of this is to enable the saver to invest a minimum £5 a month in the Hill Samuel Security Trust. HS Security is a £2.76m. trust structured as a general fund. It has been going since 1964 but was not always under Hill Samuel's management.

The setting up fee is £2 plus the normal charges on the unit trust of 5 per cent. initially and then ½ per cent. per annum. Investors who accumulate £450 or more will become entitled to a loan of up to 80 per cent. of their holdings at competitive rates.

BIDS AND DEALS

Bovis bid for rest of Varney

A plan for Bovis and its subsidiary, Varney (Holdings), to exchange certain interests has been dropped and, instead, Bovis is to bid £1.4m. for the 35 per cent. of the shares in Varney it does not already own.

The offer is 125p a share cash. This is lower than the 142p at which Varney's share price was suspended in August on the original disclosure of the exchange proposal, but is the same price Bovis offered when it made a partial bid for 65 per cent. of Varney in May.

Yesterday's announcement said the new plan would eliminate tax disadvantages involved in the earlier proposals. Also, the advantages of maintaining the separate quotation for Varney were more remote so far as minority holders were concerned.

Consideration is being given to whether the minority should be acquired by means of an offer or by a scheme of arrangement. On the basis of an offer Bovis would make it conditional upon sufficient acceptances being received to enable it to acquire compulsorily the balance.

Pre-tax profits of Varney for the eight months to December 31, 1973, are forecast at £440,000 (£882,680 for the 12 months to April 30, 1973).

Varney's directors, other than those nominated by Bovis, have been advised by Kleinwort Benson and will unanimously recommend holders to accept. They and other shareholders, together holding 13.5 per cent. of the total—or 38.8 per cent. of the minority—have irrevocably undertaken to accept.

The directors are to apply for a relisting of Varney's shares as soon as possible.

Reed & Smith recovery

Reed and Smith, Exeter-based paper group, is forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits in 1973 from £242,688 to about £400,000. This marks a continuation of the recovery which followed a fall from £474,393 to £91,449 in 1971 as a result of losses from engineering activities.

The forecast is contained in documents relating to Reed's agreed offer for Partridge and Love, the Bristol concern with printing and advertising interests. Partridge has itself raised its profits forecast for 1973 from £200,000 to £250,000. In 1972, the figure was £50,000.

Reed chairman, Mr. K. Weedy, discloses that a professional revaluation of properties has thrown up a surplus of more than £1.6m. over book vaues.

Holders of 54.68 per cent. of the Partridge equity have irrevocably undertaken to accept the offer, which closes on December 7. The Reed meeting to approve the capital increase will be held on December 10.

ALLIED INSULATORS -DOULTON DEAL OFF

The agreement signed last August between Allied Insulators and Doulton and Company, whereby Allied was to have acquired the undertaking, assets and goodwill of Doulton's Insulator Division and Doulton's two small foundry companies, Hopyard Foundries and T. H. Mold and Son, has lapsed and will not be implemented.

Completion was conditional upon the assignment to Allied of an agreement with an overseas manufacturer relating to certain of Doulton's products, and this condition could not be met to the satisfaction of the parties involved, it is explained.

NO BID FOR STANNEYLANDS

Stanneylands Group board states that no offer for the issued capital has resulted from the tentative approaches recently made to the company, and that no further talks are being held.

TOWER-TREMLETTS

Following the agreement in principle that a merger would be to the mutual benefit of both companies Tower Assets has appointed Dawnay, Day and Co. to advise upon the financial terms for implementing the proposal and Tremletts will be advised by Slater Walker. A further announcement will be made as soon as possible.

R. WARNER—"WAIT"

The directors of Robert Warner said they were consulting the company's financial advisers, N. M. Rothschild and Sons, with regard to the increased offer to be made by Investment and Property Holdings, which includes a cash offer of £13 per share.

In cash terms the increased offer was "clearly superior" to that of £12.50 to be made by Matheson and Co. and certain members of the Reeves family, the director added.

When formal documents are received they will write again. Until then shareholders are advised to take no action.

GRENDON TRUST

The postponed meeting of the full Takeover Panel to investigate the recent takeover of Grendon Trust by the private interests of millionaire, Mr. Christopher Selmes, is now expected to be held in the first week of December.

The original meeting, scheduled for yesterday, was postponed because Mr. Selmes had entered the London Clinic for an operation.

Meanwhile, it is announced that acceptances of the offer for Grendon have been received in respect of 96.27 per cent. of the Ordinary and also in respect of 579,069 warrants. These shares include the holding of Eastminster, Mr. Selmes's private company which originally built up the Grendon stake. The balance of shares is to be acquired compulsorily.

On September 27, when it was announced that Eastminster would procure offers for the remaining Grendon shares, Eastminster and others acting in concert held 2.73m. Ordinary and 108,000 warrants. During the offer period Eastminster and others acting in concert, who irrevocably undertook to accept the offer from CST Investments, purchase 763,327 Ordinary and 20,000 warrants (which have since been sold).

Ladbroke buying Luton Stadium

Ladbroke Group had agreed purchase Luton Stadium for £500,000 (subject to adjustment) by the issue of 8 per cent. Guaranteed Unsecured Loan Stock 1992 (with warrants attached). The loan stock to be issued will be calculated by reference to the lower middle market quotation on the Stock Exchange for dealings during the period 14 to 7 working days before completion which is expected to take place December 31, 1973.

Ladbroke's Lucky Seven Entertainments Centre—Cesars Palace Luton—is on a part of the acre site owned by Luton Stadium. Cesars would occupy 3½ acres which would include the existing building and extensive additional car parking facilities.

It is proposed that the remainder of the site would be developed for light industrial and warehouse purposes, together with a children's playground. The possibility of incorporating an occupational workshop on this site is also being examined.

Smiths £1.8m. acquisition

Smiths Industries and Tudor Accessories (Holdings) announce that agreement has been reached for Smiths to acquire Tudor Accessories and certain trading subsidiaries, including Tudor Accessories Limited, based in South Wales, which manufactures and markets a range of motor accessories, etc.

Consideration has not been finalised but net assets of the companies being acquired will cost in the region of £1.8m. to be satisfied by one-third each in cash, Smiths equity, at 179p per share, and Smiths 7½ per cent. Convertible Loan stock at par.

Haden's £1.3m. French deal

Haden Carrier announces that agreement has been reached, subject to shareholders approval and obtaining all necessary exchange control consents, to acquire the 20.5 per cent. minority shareholdings in its principal French subsidiary, Societe Carrier, for approximately £1.3m. in cash.

DUNFORD & ELLIOTT SELLS EATAD TO WOODHOUSE

In a deal involving around £112,000 Dunford and Elliott is selling its subsidiary, Eatad, to Woodhouse and Rixson (Holdings), the Sheffield forging and engineering group.

As consideration Woodhouse will allot 33,333 shares and will additionally allot a further 300,000 and pay £5,250 in cash for the assignment of an outstanding loan made to Eatad of £167,000.

Eatad manufactures steel flanges and fittings for the petrochemical and process plant industries, and it incurred losses of about £59,000 and £25,000 in 1973 and 1972 respectively.

While demand is now increasing, Eatad's business does not form an integral part of Dunford activities it is stated, and the directors consider the operation would benefit from association with a company capable of offering some rationale in terms of forging supplies.

The 333,333 Woodhouse shares involved representing 7.38 per cent. of the equity have been issued at 30p each.

STAVELEY SALE COMPLETED

The proposed sale by Staveley Industries of its 60 per cent. holding in Tilghman Wheelabrator to Wheelabrator International Inc. previously announced last month has been completed for £803,000 in cash.

Based on accounts of Tilghman for the year to September 29, 1973 profit before tax was £163,000 before deducting extraordinary items of £188,000. Book value of net assets as at September 29 was £1,246,000.

Proceeds from the sale will be employed in financing Staveley's current capital expansion plan.

HAZELL SUN EXCHANGE

Resolutions necessary to approve the exchange of 5¼ per cent. cumulative preference shares of Hazell Sun for 7½ per cent. unsecured loan stock 1998-2003 of the British Printing Corporation were approved at the Hazell Sun meeting.

The exchange must now be sanctioned by the Court before it becomes effective and it is expected that this will have taken place on or shortly after December 14.

THORN-CLARKSON

Thorn Electrical Industries has now received the answers it was seeking from Clarkson International, the hand tools group, so that it could proceed with its bid announced this week.

The offer is subject now to an estimate by the Clarkson directors, reported upon by their auditors and merchant bankers of pre-tax profits of about £1.2m. for the year ending November 30, 1973, and also to no reference being made to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the Fair Trading Act, 1973.

DUNDEE PERTH

The proposals relating to the Dundee, Perth and London Securities Convertible Stock and the resolution to increase the authorised capital of Charrington Gardner, Locket were both duly approved at the meetings and the offer on behalf of Charringtons for the Ordinary capital of D P & L has become unconditional.

Acceptances have been received in respect of 5,668,914 shares (over 90.4 per cent.). Charringtons intends to acquire compulsorily any outstanding shares.

More bids Page 19

UMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

e-over bids and mergers

espite the general stock market malaise, it has been another week for the bids and mergers sector. Following the ncement a *month ago that bid talks were in progress*, terms now been agreed for the take-over of **Hodge Group** by ard and Chartered Banking. The family interests of Sir . *Hodge*, chairman and managing director of *Hodge Group*, cepting share-exchange terms for their 24.1 per cent. equity st; other shareholders are offered the same share terms n element of Loan stock which values their holdings at

. speculative rise in the shares of **Forbuoys**, the tobacs, newsagents and confectioners, brought fourth a statefrom the company on *Tuesday* that *bid discussions* were held. On Thursday evening, Gallaher emerged as the r with recommended cash terms which value Forbuoys at n.

ondon Merchant Securities and Lazard Brothers have d to sell a joint holding of 32 *per* cent. of the equity of ietors of **Hay's Wharf** to St. Martins Property for a shares Convertible Loan stock consideration. In accordance with ity Take-over Code, similar terms are extended to other olders which value the whole equity at £49.4m.

iscussions between **Oriel Foods** and RCA Corporation of .S. which were announced about two months ago have led reement in principle for a 205p per share cash offer from which values Oriel at £10.9m. In a move to expand its tools interests, Thorn Electrical has made a conditional of 70p cash for each Ordinary and "A" share of **Clarkson national Tools**, valuing the combined *equity* at £10.5m. Eleven, a private company run by Mr. Frank Sanderson previously headed the Bovis building group, is acquiring a lling interest in **Lowe and Brydone (Printers)** for 60p per share and offering similar terms for the outstanding y.

ambourne Securities revealed a cash offer of 75p for each es Spreckley share, while increased bids have come from nbe for **Surinvest Holdings** and from Investment and erty for **Robert Warner**.

ondon and County Securities' bid for **Inveresk Group** has referred to the Monopolies Commission and the Inveresk l has issued a strong defence against the terms. As a result, d C. is allowing the bid to lapse.

Company bid for	Value of bid per share k	Market price k	Price before bid	Value of bid (£m's) k	Bidder	Final Acc'tce date
City of Aberdeen Land	800*d	£9¼	£5¼	0.4*d	Greencoat Props.	—
Clarksn. Intl. Tools	70*	61	54	8.1*	Thorn Elect.	—
Clarkson Intl. "A"	70*	61	53½	2.4*	Thorn Elect.	—
Colvern	78*d	75	68	1.1*d	Royal Worcstr.	—
Combined Austin Samuel	53	55	42	4.3	Scotia Invs.	—
Cons. Tea & Lands	189	210	170	2.3	James Finlay	—
Cook and Watts	37*d	35	22½	1.1*d	Courtaulds	—
Cornwall Propy.	117	107	111	26.2	Argyle Secs.	28/11
Court Hotels	140*e	125	140	0.9*e	Tollman Hotels	—
Forbuoys	305*	293g	265	11.7*	Gallaher	—
Fothergill and Harvey	100d	95	80	3.2d	Jones Stroud	—
Gale Lister	91	93	100	1.0	Mnt. Charlotte	—
Gloucester and Chelt. Greyhnds.	65*	65	65	0.6*	Mr J G Walker & Mr R C Watson	—
Gramgas	53	54	47	0.8	Scotia Invs.	—
Griffiths Bentley	[illegible]	20	24	12.9	Bristl. St. Gp.	11/10
Halwins	35*		28	1.0*	N. Brown Invs.	—
Hay's Wharf	395d	390	413	32.5d	St. Martins Prp.	—
Hill (R. Wylie)	120*	114	96	2.4*	Jhn. Menzies	21/11
Hodge Group	59½d	55	55	4.2d	Stnd. & Chrtd.	—
House of Fraser	165	11	150	204.1	Boots	—
International Secs.	43½	33	35	1.6	English and Overseas Invs.	—
Keiner Venesta	106*d	101	101	2.1*d	Venesta Intl.	—
Lamson Inds.	100*e	86	71	19.0*e	Moore Cpn.	23/11
Lookers	50*	43	48	2.2*	Grylw. Hdgs.	21/11
Lowe & Brydone	60*d	80	55	0.3*d	First Eleven	—
McLean (John)	114	120	79	8.0	Tarmac	3/12
Maclehose	40*	45‡	45‡	0.4*	Howard and Wyndham	—
Metropolitan Tst.	182b	174	156	50.3b	Guardn. Royal Exchange	26/11
Oriel Foods	205*	191g	133	10.9*	RCA Corpn.	—
Partridge & Love	165	155	154	1.8	Reed & Smith	7/12
Pickering (Edgar)	200b	190	149	6.0b	Sears Holdings	—
Pope and Pearson	320*d	320‡	205	0.3*d	Coltness Group	—
Pundaloya Hldgs.	40½*d	48	42	0.2*d	Jessel Secs.	—
Shipping Ind. Hldgs.	525*d	506	465	41.5*d	Vlasov/Capitalfin.	—
Slater Walker (Hong Kong)	58d	54½	48½	13.9d	Haw Par	—
Slater Walker Inv. Tst. (SA)	54	50	54	6.7	Tokengate Inv.	—
Spreckley (Chas.)	75*d	75g	73	11.4*d	Cambrne. Secs.	—
Sternol	115*	115	90	0.3*	Elf Union	—
Sturge (J. & E.)	87	97	67	3.9	Croda Intl.	4/12
Surinvest Hldgs.	109*d	105g	83	0.6*d	Parambe	—
Teith Hldgs.	357	420	312	3.4	James Finlay	—
Turner (Ray)	125*d	117	94	3.7*d	Hestair	—
Warner (Robt.)	£13b	£13g	£10½	£15.9b	Invest. & Prop Hldgs.	26/11
Warner (Robt.)	£12.50*	£13g	£10½	£15.3*	Mr. Reeves/Mathen. & Co.	—
Warren Rubber	60bd	63‡	63‡	0.8bd	Warren (J.)	7/12
West Nile Hldgs.	323	370	365	2.2	James Finlay	—
Whitehouse (G.) (Eng.)	27*d	26	22	0.2*d	Columbus Trust	30/11

* All cash offer. b Cash alternative. c Partial bid. d For capital not already held. e *Combined market capitalisation.* f Date on which scheme is expected to become operative. g Based on 16/11/73. k Based on 15/11/73. ‡ At suspension. † Bid.

Company bid for	Value of bid per share k	Market price k	Price before bid	Value of bid (£m's) k	Bidder	Final Acc'tce date
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated						
rton-Forco	103b	99	100	3.1b	Aurora Gear	7/12
(Securities)	128*	120½	88½	40.0*	Champion Intl. Corpn.	—
ey (J. & S.)	36b	34	31	1.0b	Debenhams	—
n Bayley is	72	68	67	3.4	Dunford and Elliott	—
ock Hldgs.	160	215	160	1.2	James Finlay	—

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Attributable* Pre-tax per share (p)		Dividends* per share (p)	
A. Arenson	July 31	882	(385)	14.3	(8.4)	2.546	(2.425)
Beavrbrk. Nwsprs.	June 30	1,507	(3,348)	9.0	(21.0)	3.5	(3.5)
Bekoh Holdings	*June 30*	*312*	*(144)*	*6.0*	*(2.5)*	*2.4*	*(2.0)*
Birmingham Post	June 30	2,542	(1,476)	15.7	(9.0)	3.413	(3.25)
British Electronic.	July 31	65	(97)L	1.7	(—)	0.7	(Nil)
John Carr	Sept. 30	1,309	(807)	23.8	(14.7)	3.67	(3.5)
Clyde Blowers	Aug. 31	248	(199)	24.6	(19.7)	3.675	(3.5)
Enalon Plastics	June 30	92	(76)	14.3	(11.9)	5.908	(5.625)
J. H. Fenner	Aug. 31	3,242	(2,639)	23.7	(19.6)	4.988	(4.75)
Antony Gibbs	*June 30*	*362a*	*(328)*	*3.0b*	*(2.7)*	*2.5*	*(1.5)*
Greencoat Props.	June 30	762	(503)	2.4	(1.6)	0.945	(0.9)
R. Green Props.	*June 30*	*999*	*(647)*	*8.2*	*(5.5)*	*1.909*	*(1.616)*
Lake & Elliot	July 31	537a	(595)d	8.0b	(8.9)	3.83	(4.375)
Land & Hse. Prop.	Sept. 30	782a	(608)	7.9b	(6.2)	5.25	(5)
Joseph Lucas	July 31	26,679	(21,502)	38.7	(31.2)	6.99	(6.66)
Meru Group	June 30	78	(39)	4.3	(2.2)	0.375	(Nil)
Muirhead	Sept. 30	803	(632)	13.8	(10.9)	3.75	(1.875)
Natl. & Commrcl.	Sept. 30	42,618	(29,870)	37.9	(26.5)	5.328	(5.075)
C. H. Pearce	*May 31*	*401*	*(268)*	*31.9*	*(21.1)*	*3.675*	*(3.5)*
Samuelson Film	Mar. 31	405	(102)	12.2	(8.1)	10	(8)
Sanderson Murray	*June 30*	*155*	*(157)*	*8.1*	*(8.2)*	*3.75*	*(Nil)*
J. Shaw (Salfd.)	July 31	60L	(15)L	—	(—)	Nil	(Nil)

(Figures in parentheses are for corresponding period.)

* *Adjusted for any intervening scrip issue.* † *Net—against gross.* ‡ Net. § Made public January, 1973. ¶ Forecast £53m. (£47m.) profits for year. a Net profit. b Attributable net profit. c Third quarter figures. d Includes John Allen figures. e Forecast £48m. (£37m.) profits for year. f Forecast profits for year to exceed £4½m. (£3.11m.). g Forecast £354,000 (£403,256) profits for year. h Forecast £26.75m. (£18.67m.) profits for year. i Reaffirmed forecast of not less than £500,000 profits for year. j Forecast profits for year to exceed £400,000 (£225,000). k Forecast 3p (2p) gross total. L Loss.

Offers for sale, placings and introductions

Christie's International: Offer for sale 7.5m. Ordinary 10p shares at 70p each.

L.K. Industrial Investments: Relisting whole Preference and Ordinary share capital, and placing 400,000 New Ordinary 25p shares at 35p each.

Staffordshire *Potteries* **Water Board:** *Placing* £1.5m. 11¼ per cent. Redeemable stock 1981 at £99 per cent.

Rights Issues

Medens Trust: Issue 1,411,430 Ordinary 10p shares at 35p each.

Supara Investments: Issue 958,980 10p shares, basis one-for-two, *at 15p per share.*

Scrip Issues

John Carr (Doncaster): One-for-one.

Medens Trust: One-for-one.

National and Commercial Banking Group: One-for-one.

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Interim *dividends** per share (p)	
Allnatt London	Sept. 30	728	(596)	0.875†	(1.25)
Ault & Wiborg	Sept. 30	838	(557)	1.1025†	(1.5)
Bellair Cosmetics	June 30	28	(53)	0.525†	(0.75)
Beyer Peacock	July 1	84	(58)	0.7†	(0.75)
J. Billam	June 30	75	(69)	0.62†	(0.85)
Bt. Bk. of Cmmrce.	Sept. 30	1,591	(1,135)	0.6752†	(0.833)
British & Cmwlth.	June 30	4,533	(3,429)	2.205†	(3)
N. Brown Invsts.	Sept. 1	481	(345)	0.735†	(1)
Bryanston Finance	June 30	586	(465)	0.875†	(1.25)
Burrell	*June 30*	377	(256)	*0.1925†*	(0.25)
Chamberlin & Hill	Sept. 30	125	(125)	0.6563†	(0.9375)
Chloride Group	Sept. 30	5,310	(4,570)	0.8577†	(1.167)
Chubb & Son	Sept. 30	2,931	(2,270)	0.56†	(0.8)
Clover Dairies	Sept. 30	784	(779)	1.75†	(2.5)
Coats Patons	June 30	24,067e	(15,865)	0.9†	(1.1875)
Courtaulds	Sept. 30	41,000	(21,300)	1.71†	(2.083)
James Dawson	Sept. 30	220	(188)	1†	(1.422)
Joseph Dawson	Sept. 30	2,402f	(920)	1.05†	(0.625)
Diamond Stylus	Sept. 30	58	(39)	0.525	(0.5)
George Doland	June 30	63	(35)	—	(—)
Edge Tool	Sept. 30	260	(161)	—	(—)
B. Fertleman	Sept. 30	150	(17)	1.05†	(0.5)
Gen. Accident	Sept. 30	29,300c	(23,800)	—	(—)
Graig Shipping	Sept. 30	208	(112)	5.6†	(8)
N. Greening	Sept. 30	633	(351)	0.35†	(0.5)
Invergdn. Distills.	Sept. 30	548	(322)	0.5‡	(Nil)
Maurice James	June 30	112	(81)	0.7‡	(—)
Kode Internatl.	July 13	80	(2)	0.6125‡	(—)
Lead & Alloys	Sept. 30	250	(85)	2.75†	(3.125)
F. H. Lloyd	Sept. 29	1,143	(908)	0.9625†	(1.375)
Macanie (London)	June 30	100g	(149)	Nil	(0.5)
McNeill Group	June 30	252	(158)	0.9188†	(1.25)
Wm. Mallinson	June 30	4,325	(1,205)	0.7†	(1)
Melias	Sept. 29	160	(108)	0.588†	(0.8)
Metal Box	*Sept. 30*	*13,370h*	*(8,780)*	4.0425†	(5.3)
Mint Birmingham	Sept. 30	350	(78)	1.12†	(1.5)
Wm. Morrison	July 31	488	(354)	—	(—)
J. W. Pickles	*June 30*	157	*(208)*	1.4‡	(—)
Plantation Hldgs.	June 30	807	(225)	0.7†	(0.925)
Pork Farms	Sept. 1	461	(382)	2.625†	(2)
Randalls Group	June 30	249 i	(158)	1.4†	(2)
Rexmore	Sept. 30	1,132	(764)	1.1025†	(1.5)
Robertson Foods	Sept. 30	550	(828)	1.05†	(1.5)
Rowan & Boden	June 30	38L	(85)	—	(—)
Royal Insurance	Sept. 30	37,000c	(36,000)	—	(—)
Geo. G. Sandeman	*June 30*	1,002	(388)	*0.625†*	(0.833)
Shellabear Price	June 30	160 j	(60)	0.875†k	(0.75)
Standrd. & Chrtrd.	Sept. 30	31,168f	(21,173)	5.6†	(6)
Tranwood	June 30	62§	(—)	0.35‡	(—)
Unerman Hldgs.	Sept. 30	281	(171)	1.4‡	(—)
W. Cumbrlnd. Silk	Sept. 30	71	(51)	0.49†	(0.7)
B. S. & W. Whitely.	Sept. 30	97	(70)	0.2625†	(0.375)
Yng. & Co's Brwry.	Sept. 30	425	(384)	0.75†	(0.925)
York Trust	Sept. 30	36	(15)L	Nil	(Nil)

S AND DEALS—(Cont'd)

chroders pays 2.35m. for om.-Lincoln

e price paid by Schroders for inion-Lincoln Assurance, a er subsidiary of the *Lincoln* nal Life Insurance Company, e U.S., has now been disclosed 35m. in cash.

e deal was first announced in and it was then still subject rtain *U.K. Government con-* Dominion-Lincoln's name ow been changed to Schroder Assurance and its wholly- d subsidiary, Dominion- oln Equity Assurance, has renamed Schroder Equity rance.

e single-premium unit-linked assurance business, called oder Assurance, which oder had under way before latest deal, will probably be merged in due course with Schroder Life Assurance.

At October 31, 1973, the formerly named Dominion-Lincoln Assurance had total sums assured of business in force of about £84m., with related annual premiums of £1.4m.

LAMSON-MOORE

Mr. B. H. Pearce, chairman of Lamson Industries, has now *written to shareholders to tell* them that the Board "unanimously recommends" them to accept the offer by Moore Corporation of Canada to accept its offer to acquire 19.03m. Lamson shares.

He says that *Lamson is having* a good year, but he believes "there is a better opportunity of progress being maintained if the fullest possible support from *Moore Corporation* can be assured for the future."

ASSOCIATES DEALS

On November 14, Morgan Grenfell sold on behalf of discretionary investment clients 10,000 Guest Keen at average £2.73.

On November 15, Hichens, *Harrison bought* 250,000 *and* 25,000 at 90p also 50,000 at 89p in Tower Assets for associates of Tremletts.

Robert Fleming bought 10,000 *Clarke Chapman John Thompson* at 91½p for an associate being a *discretionary investment client*.

Ralph Hilton Transport

Sharp criticism of Mr. Ralph Hilton, former chairman of Ralph Hilton Transport, is made by the present Board in a letter calling a special meeting next January 21 to vote on Mr. Hilton's recently-announced proposals to sack five *existing directors* and appoint himself and four associates.

Mr. Lindsay Simpson, the chairman, *lays the blame for* past bad figures at Mr. Hilton's door. He claims that although the loss for the year to the end of July will be substantial, it will be less than the £1.1m. "sustained under Mr. Hilton's management in the previous year."

He adds: "The potential of the company has been very seriously, but not *permanently*, impaired by the policies of the past." The group is currently the subject of a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry. Mr. Hilton claims control of 36 per cent. of the company —and the present Board over 60 per cent., according to Mr. James McNaughton, managing director, yesterday.

ISURANCE BASE RATES

tlantic Assurance ... 13½%

dress shown under Insurance and operty Bond table.

BANK BASE RATES

Allied Irish Banks Ltd.	13 %
Anglo-Eastern Bank ...	13 %
Anglo-Portuguese Bank	13 %
Henry Ansbacher	13 %
Audley Holdings Ltd.	13½%
Banco de Bilbao	13 %
Bank of Cyprus	†13 %
Barclays Bank	13 %
■ Wm. Brandt's	13 %
Brit. Bk. of Commerce	13½%
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	13 %
■ Brown Shipley	13 %
Cedar Holdings	13 %
■ Charterhouse Japhet...	13 %
Choulartons	13 %
C. E. Coates	13 %
Consolidated Credits...	13 %
Co-operative Bank	*13 %
Copleys Bank	13 %
Corinthian Securities...	13 %
Credit Lyonnais	13 %
Credito Italiano	13 %
G. R. Dawes	13 %
Dawnay Day	13½%
Duboff Brothers	13 %
Dunbar and Co. Ltd. ...	13½%
Duncan Lawrie	13 %
English Transcont.	13 %
First Maryland	13½%
FNFC	13 %
■ Antony Gibbs	13 %
Gresham Trust	13 %
Greyhound Guaranty	13 %
■ Guinness Mahon	13 %
■ *Hambros Bank*	13 %
Hawtin & Partners ...	13½%
■ Hill Samuel	§13 %
C. Hoare & Co.	†13 %
Julian S. Hodge	13 %
Italian International	13 %
Jacobs, Kroll	13 %
Keyser Ullmann	13 %
Kinghurst Securities...	13 %
Lloyds Bank	13 %
London & County Sec.	13½%
London Cavendish	13½%
London Mercantile	13½%
Midland Bank	13 %
■ Samuel Montagu	13 %
Moorgate Mercantile...	13 %
■ Morgan Grenfell	13 %
Morris Wigram Ltd. ...	13 %
National Westminster ...	13 %
Northern Comm. Trust	13 %
Portman Guaranty	13 %
■ Rea Brothers	13½%
P. S. Refson & Co.	13 %
■ N. M. Rothschild	13 %
St. Mary Axe Finance	13 %
E. S. Schwab	13 %
Security Tst. Co. Bhm.	13 %
Shenley Trust	13 %
Standard Guarantee ...	13 %
Sterling Credit	13½%
Sterling Industrial Sec.	13 %
Stewart Salmon & Co.	13 %
Swiss-Israel Trade Bk.	13 %
Thames Guaranty	13 %
Twentieth Century Bk.	13 %
Wallace Bros. Sassoon	13 %
Whiteaway Laidlaw ...	13 %
G. T. Whyte	13 %
Williams & Glyn's	13 %
Wintrust	13 %
Yorkshire Bank	13 %

■ Members of the Accepting Houses Committee. * 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 9½%, up to £25,000 11%, over £25,000 11½%. † 7-day deposits on all sums of £1,000 and over 9½%. ‡ Demand Deposits 10%. § Linked to M.L.R.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Issue Price	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1973 High	1973 Low	Stock	Closing Price	+ or −	Div.	Times Covered	Gross Yield	P/E Ratio
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Issue Price	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1973 High	1973 Low	Stock	Closing Price	+ or −
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Issue Price	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	High	Low	Stock	Closing price	+ or −
[illegible]	nil	12/12	[illegible]	[illegible]	Comln. Bk. of Sydney	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	nil	17/2	[illegible]	[illegible]	Peak Invs.	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	F.P.	5/12	[illegible]	[illegible]	Robinson (G.A.)	130	−2
[illegible]	nil	30/11	[illegible]	[illegible]	Supara Invs.	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	nil	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Woodside-Burmah	[illegible]	[illegible]

Renunciation date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty. [illegible]

WALL STREET + OVERSEAS MARKETS + LATEST PRICES

Index up 16 on Mid-East hopes

BY OUR WALL STREET CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, Nov. 16.

HINTS THAT ARAB countries might relax their oil embargo and hopes for a long-term peace plan in the Middle East fuelled a powerful rally on Wall Street to-day, but profit-taking cut into the gains.

After rising 19.04 to 893.59 in the first hour, the Dow Jones Industrial Average partially reacted to 880.72, up a net 6.17, rallied again to 894.27, up 19.72, before settling back at 891.33, for a net gain of 16.78 on the day, which reduced its loss on the week to 17.08.

The NYSE All Common Index rose 70 cents to $55.48 but was off $1.03 on the week. Rises led falls by 990-to-532. Trading volume decreased 2.02m. shares to 22.51m.

Arab oil sources dismissed the White House predicted as unlikely, but it came too late to have much impact on the Stock Market.

The rally faded, but revived after Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev said his nation and the U.S. had a common desire to see peace established in the mid-East.

Buying centred on issues that were severely depressed recently and concern about fuel shortages and especially the threat of gasoline rationing.

Motors were active and strong, General Motors gained $2 to $57¾, Chrysler $1½ to $20½ and Ford $1¾ to $45⅝.

Pizza Hut were up $1⅝ at $19¼ and Harrah's $2 to $13¾.

Among International Oils, California Standard gained $1⅞ to $64⅞, Exxon $1⅛ to $96⅝, and Mobil $3⅜ to $56¼.

Getty Oil fell $5⅞ to $157½.

EG and G declined $2 to $20 and United Nuclear were off $1¼ to $15⅞.

The American SE Market Value Index rose 0.53 to 100.64, but was still down 3.5 on the week.

Houston Oil and Minerals were down $4 at 58. Buttes Gas and Oil reacted $⅜ to $36¼.

OTHER MARKETS

Canada moves up

All sectors moved up in active trading on Canadian Stock Markets yesterday.

The Industrials gained 3.13 to 225.51, Golds 5.13 to 287.05, Base Metals 1.60 to 102.83, Western Oils 3.74 to 271.23, Papers 2.66 to 141.83, Banks 2.36 to 282.91 and Utilities 0.08 to 144.05.

PARIS—Market steadied after recent declines.

Banks, Portfolios, Constructions, Metals, Chemicals and Oils were mixed. Foods, Motors and Rubbers firmed, while Stores held steady.

BRUSSELS—Generally lower.

Dutch Internationals and some South African Golds improved. French and West German issues declined.

AMSTERDAM — Internationals were firmer. Plantations, Shippings and Banks mixed. Investment Funds slightly weaker. Insurances firmer. Dutch local issues mixed.

Dutch State Loans narrowly mixed.

MILAN—Mixed to lower in active trading.

GERMANY—Mostly closed lower with Blue Chips losing as much as DM9. Selling, especially from Foreign investors, was evident in all sectors.

Holzmann, a big construction and civil engineering firm, fell DM29 to 410.

OSLO—Industrials and Shippings easier, Banks steady, Insurances quiet.

VIENNA—Narrowly irregular in quiet dealing.

COPENHAGEN — Lower in moderate dealings.

SWITZERLAND—Widely lower in very active trading on continued fears that Switzerland will be hurt by the threatening oil crisis.

TOKYO — Many prices lost ground in a rush of selling, prompted by the Government's oil-saving campaign. Volume 270m. (360m.) shares.

Electric Powers, Motors, Steels and Heavy Electricals were expected to suffer heavily from the shortage of oil.

AUSTRALIA—Industrials eased, but Minings and Oils continued firm.

Poseidon eased 4 cents to $A5.40 and Peko-Wallsend shed 6 cents to $A5.26.

Great Boulder Mines at 74 cents and Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie at 94 cents each rose 4 cents.

In Oils, Woodside-Burmah gained 3 cents to $A1.17 and Endeavour Oil 1 cent to 12 cents.

JOHANNESBURG—Gold shares firmed in quiet trading, attributed to lack of London selling.

Platinums were mostly below the day's highest levels. In Coppers, Messina closed at R6.35, after R6.45.

Mining Financials were little changed in quiet trading.

Industrials were easier.

Indices

NEW YORK

DOW JONES AVERAGES

Close	Home Bonds	Transport †	Indus *	Util. ⊕	Trading volume ‡ 000's
Nov. 16	72.80	175.68	891.33	93.27	22,510
15	72.87	174.25	874.56	92.89	24,530
14	72.88	174.25	869.38	92.44	22,710
13	73.03	179.09	891.03	93.91	20,310
12	73.03	181.37	897.65	94.64	19,250
9	73.08	185.39	908.41	96.11	17,320
8	72.96	186.13	932.65	96.47	19,650
7	72.94	180.83	920.08	97.20	18,570
6	72.93	173.71	913.08	96.95	16,430
5	72.92	176.73	919.40	97.78	17,150
2	73.02	180.01	935.28	98.38	16,340
1	72.92	180.79	948.53	98.80	18,920
Oct. 31	73.09	182.26	956.58	99.37	17,890
30	73.08	182.10	958.54	100.78	17,580
29	73.11	186.20	984.80	101.56	17,960
1973 High	78.54 (18/1)	228.10 (2/1)	1051.70 (11/1)	120.72 (2/1)	—
Low	71.58 (15/8)	151.57 (22/8)	851.90 (22/8)	92.44 (14/11)	—

* All-time high 1051.70 (11/1/73).
‡ All-time high 279.88 (7/2/69).
⊕ All-time high 163.32 (20/4/65).
† Excluding bonds.

IND. DIVIDEND YIELD p.c.

Nov. 9	Nov. 2	Nov. 10 1972
3.77	3.62	3.14

N.Y. SE ALL COMMON INDEX

December 31, 1965=50.

1973 High	Low	Fri.	Thurs.	Wed.	Tues.	Mon.
65.48 (11/1)	53.36 (6/7)	55.48	54.78	54.82	55.81	55.86

RISES AND FALLS

Issues traded	Up	Down	Unchanged
1,804	990	532	282

	Fri.	Thurs.	Wed.	Tues.	Mon.
New Highs	10	6	26	24	14
Lows	85	268	232	168	147

AMERICAN SE MARKET VALUE INDEX

Starting base 100 Aug. 31, 1973.

1973 High	Low	Fri.	Thurs.	Wed.	Tues.	Mon.
108.82 (22/10)	98.75 (17/8)	100.64	100.11	100.10	102.18	103.14
Volume (000's)		5,240	5,984	4,248	4,588	5,527

STANDARD AND POORS U.S. STOCK INDICES

	*Ind. Ord.	†Composite
Nov. 16	116.86	103.88
15	115.13	102.43
14	115.16	102.45
13	117.33	104.36
12	117.34	104.44
9	118.28	105.30
8	120.30	107.02
1973 High	134.03 (5/1)	120.17 (5/1)
1973 Low	112.97 (22/8)	102.45 (14/11)

* 425 Industrials. † 425 Industrials, 50 Utilities, 25 Rails.

STOCK AND BOND YIELDS

	Nov. 15 1973	Nov. 7 1973	Nov. 12 1972
Ind. Ord. yield pc	3.02	2.88	2.52
Ind. Ord. p/e ratio	13.90	15.29	20.29
Long-term Govt. Bds. pc	5.91	5.95	5.32

FRIDAY'S ACTIVE STOCKS

	Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day
Ponderosa System	256,600	51	−1
Kayser-Roth	247,900	12¼	+1⅞
Brit. Petroleum	245,400	13⅞	+¼
General Motors	219,500	57⅞	+2
Penn Central	213,400	2	−⅛
Chrysler	212,200	20½	+1½
Gillette	187,500	41¼	−3
Westinghouse Elec.	179,600	34¼	+1
Monsanto	174,900	59¾	+3¼
American Motors	160,100	9⅛	—

TORONTO

INDUSTRIAL INDEX

Nov. 16	Nov. 15	1973 High	1973 Low
225.51	222.38	237.99 (29/10)	202.49 (22/3)

MONTREAL

INDUSTRIAL INDEX

Nov. 16	Nov. 15	1973 High	1973 Low
251.34	250.30	271.31 (1/11)	204.53 (22/3)

COMBINED INDEX

Nov. 16	Nov. 15	1973 High	1973 Low
234.83	232.47	249.16 (1/11)	206.53 (22/3)

JOHANNESBURG

	Nov. 16	Nov. 15	High	Low
Industrials	256.3	256.8	292.1 (18/7)	246.5 (3/10)
Gold	198.8	187.5	237.7 (6/1)	187.3 (15/11)

(1958=100). Source: Rand Daily Mail.

MELBOURNE YIELDS

Av. gr. yield on 50 Leading Stocks	Nov. 15	Nov. 9	Nov. 8
On Dividends	5.41	5.30	5.30
On Earnings	8.96	8.87	8.87

SYDNEY ALL ORD. INDEX

Nov. 16	Nov. 15	High 1973	Low 1973
474.65	474.68	557.3 (19/1)	469.88 (4/10)

HONG KONG INDEX⊕

Nov. 16	Nov. 15	High 1973	Low 1973
606.08	603.55	1,774.96 (9/3)	401.77 (12/10)

SINGAPORE INDEX§

Nov. 16	Nov. 15	High 1973	Low 1973
354.31	356.01	611.36 (15/3)	269.71 (4/6)

TOKYO NEW SE INDEX†

Base=100 January 4, 1968.

Nov. 16	Nov. 15	Div. %	Yield %
326.58	330.36	11.90	2.18

1973: High 422.43 (24/1); Low 326.58 (16/11)

EUROPE

	Nov. 16	Previous	1973 High	1973 Low
Belgium (m)	131.19	132.55	148.23 (22/6)	123.11 (8/1)
Denmark (c)	112.70	114.34	128.95 (10/8)	112.37 (6/11)
France (bb)	84.9	86.2	98.9 (4/6)	78.5 (8/1)
Germany*	90.36	91.81	120.71 (25/3)	88.90 (27/7)
Holland (o)	126.9	126.1	171.9 (13/4)	125.9 (16/11)
Italy†	119.28	121.44	147.28 (19/6)	95.20 (18/2)
Sweden (p)	380.11	380.25	389.24 (10/7)	342.41 (11/10)
Switz'l'd	351.4	355.2	460.1 (27.1)	338.6 (4/8)

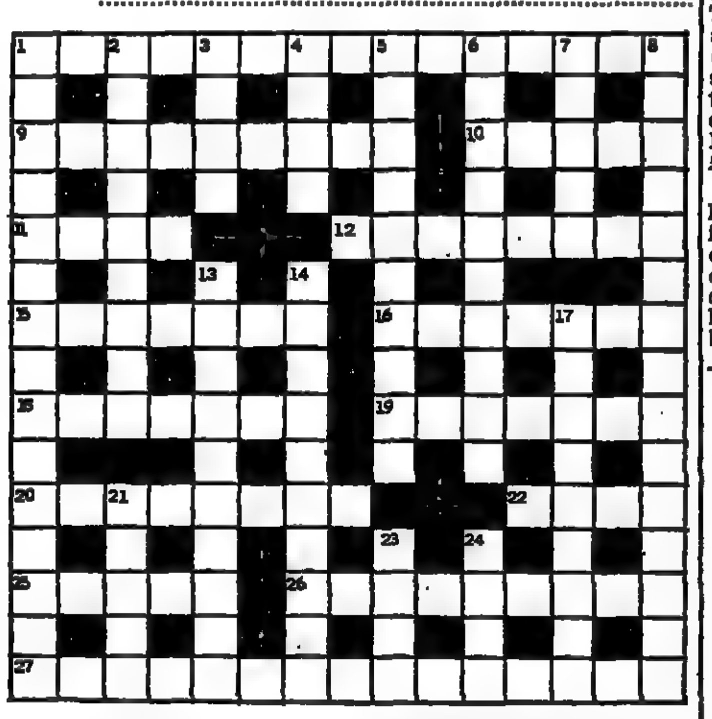
* Herstatt Index Base Dec. 31, 1959. ‡ Base 100 Jan. 2, 1973. ** Swiss Bank Corporation Index base 100 Dec., 1958. (c) Closed. (m) Base 1963. (o) Base 100 1963. (p) Base Dec. 30, 1958. (bb) Paris Bourse Committee, base 100 1961. (d) Base 100 January 1, 1973. † Base 100 Jan. 4, 1968. ⊕ Hang Seng Bank, base 100 July 31, 1964. § Straits Times Industrial, base 100 1966.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 2,328

A prize of £3 will be given to each of the senders of the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and addressed to the Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY. Winners and solution will be given next Saturday.

Name ....

Address ....



ACROSS

1 Something in reserve photographed inside cupboard (4, 2, 3, 6)
9 Running thread through assembly (9)
10 Not the usual night to object (5)
11 Bound to be drawn (4)
12 Point to the objective out of this world (8)
15 Left with fabrication to smother (7)
16 Builder joins an oriental minister (7)
18 Round trip includes a doctor with a drum (7)
19 Dregs die strangely in sheltered place (7)
20 Sure cant disturb this Italian (8)
22 Child authorising note (4)
25 Surpass a striking party (5)
26 Casual work bringing lightness to party (3, 6)
27 Workers in dispute hope for a hit (8, 7)

DOWN

1 Astonishing spectacle for the gallery to witness (5, 3, 3, 4)
2 A gymnast performs with help of direction finder (2, 3, 4)
3 Particular bit of Cockney advice to slow batsman (4)
4 Follow the queue (4)
5 They could make a change at the end of watch (5, 5)
6 Should a flat hunter be honest? (2, 3, 5)
7 Cutter presenting king with fine mess (5)
8 Far from rugged face readers expect to find in paper (7, 8)
13 Initiate supply of racehorses (10)
14 Endure opera house becoming an unruly place (4, 6)
17 Part of body found cut up in the hog bin (5-4)
21 Machine part taken right round hill (5)
23 Those in favour of a positive answer (4)
24 Toiletry found in hospital corridor (4)

Solution to Puzzle 2,327

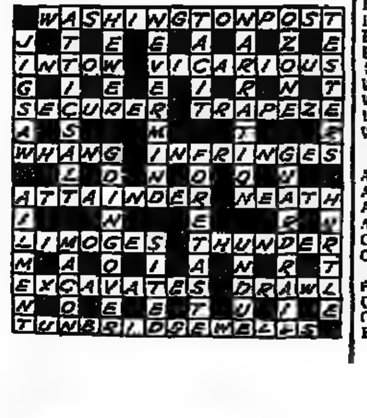
SOLUTION AND WINNERS OF PUZZLE No. 2,322

Following are the winners of last Saturday's prize puzzle:

Miss K. Doherty, 6, Bingnian Drive, Belfast, BY11 8JA, N. Ireland.

Mrs. O. Grove, 574, Bromford Lane, Ward End, Birmingham, B8 2DS.

Dr. John Stubbs, Gorham Road, Pembroke, Bermuda.



RACING

Bula is best bet

by DOMINIC WIGAN

TOP CLASS hurdlers do not always graduate successfully to fencing, but it is difficult to have any doubts in this respect about *Bula* and *Captain Christy*. To-day they meet in the Black and White Whisky Gold Cup (1.30) at Ascot, and it will be something of a shock if one of them does not win this major event, for which James Buchanan and Co. have given £8,00 as well as the cup itself.

Last year's Irish Sweeps hurdle winner, *Captain Christy*, is undefeated after two races over fences. His first steeplechasing success came only 17 days ago at Powerstown, where he justified odds of one to three by easily accounting for his five rivals in the Magner O'Brien and Moynihan Novice Chase. In that event the second favourite, Bernardsville, was a faller, and it was not until a week later that *Captain Christy* publicly confirmed himself as a fine chasing prospect by out-classing six others in a Wills Premier Chase qualifier, at Punchestown.

Bula has had only one race over fences. This was at Lingfield a fortnight ago where he made his public debut in the Wilderwick Novices Chase. He could hardly have won more easily. Starting at 5—2 on, the former champion hurdler jumped both cleanly and fast, and after taking up the running four fences from the finish, he quickly asserted his superiority over some poor rivals.

Apart from *Bula* and *Captain Christy*, the only other runners in this afternoon's feature event, are *I'm Happy* and *The Benign Bishop*. Both have put up some useful steeplechasing performances, and *The Benign Bishop*, who has made the long trip from Ken Oliver's stable in Roxburghshire, ended last term by comfortably defeating Barnard in the Welsh Champion Chase at Chepstow in April. He has not run since then, but is reported to be in fine fettle, and is ridden as at Chepstow, by Barry Brogan.

In what is to my mind the most interesting race so far this season, I expect *Bula* to strengthen Fred Winter's opinion that he is a better steeplechaser than hurdler, by outpacing *Captain Christy* and *The Bening* Bishop.

Even if Winter does not win with *Bula*, he may quickly gain consolation with *Vervins* in the Black and White Whisky Hurdle (2.05). This French-bred five-year-old, whose four victories last term included a success over the course and distance, has had only one outing in the current season. This was at Sandown a fortnight ago, where he ran a creditable race to be seventh of 18 to Accord in the competitive Esher Handicap Hurdle. He will have benefited from that run, and on this afternoon's softer ground I hope to see him win from *Cala Mesquida* and *Old Man Dimplex*.

In the final event, the Silwood Handicap Hurdle (3.40) *Sonny Somers*, who won at this meeting in 1972, will probably be a firm favourite, but backers may do better to take a chance with one of the bottom weights, *Cossall*, in St. Mary's Handicap Hurdle (3.45). And earlier in the afternoon another inmate of his small Bedfordshire stable, *The Bishop*, appeals as a good outsider in the feature event, the Joe Coral Hurdle Qualifier.

ASCOT

1.00—Supreme Hale
1.30—Bula***
2.05—Vervins
2.35—Garnishee
3.05—Even Sail
3.40—Cossall

WARWICK

1.45—Top Priority
2.15—Gay Simon
2.45—The Bishop
3.45—Scar**

WETHERBY

1.00—Gorawood
1.30—Mr. Tipp
2.00—Quagmire*
2.30—Tudor Abbe

JOHANNESBURG

MINES

Anglo American Corp.	5.35	+0.05
Buffels	†16.50	+0.50
Cons. Gold	4.05	−0.10
East Dries	5.95	+0.30
Elsburg	2.70	+0.10
Harmony	5.45	+0.25
Kinross	3.65	+0.25
Kloof	†10.75	+0.25
Pot. Plats.	2.88	+0.03
St. Helena	†17.00	−0.50
South Vaal	5.65	+0.25
Goldfields SA	21.75	−0.50
Union Corp.	4.60	−0.05
De Beers Def.	5.50	−0.05
Blyvoors	6.65	+0.05
F. S. Geduld	†15.00	+0.75
Hartles	†18.50	+1.5
President Brand	†15.00	+0.25
President Steyn	†14.00	+1.25
Stilfontein	3.90	+0.05
Welkom	4.00	+0.10
West Dries	†30.00	−0.50
Western Holdings	28.00	−0.75
Western Deep	13.75	+0.15

INDUSTRIALS

Anglo-Alpha Cement	†1.35	+0.03
Anglo-Amer. Industrial	7.80	
Anglo-Transvaal Industries	2.75	
Associated Furniture	†2.10	
CNA Investments	†3.40	+0.14
Currie Finance	†0.75	
EverReady SA	2.05	
Federale Volksbeleggings	†2.0	+0.05
Glen Anil Development	†6.10	
Guardian Assurance (SA)	1.50	
Huletts	3.80	
LTA	1.65	+0.65
Nedbank	3.30	−0.20
Nedfin	3.70	
Norman Bank	1.20	
Ovenstone Investments	1.55	−0.02
Premier Milling	†5.60	
Pretoria Cement	†3.50	−0.05
Protea Holdings	1.55	
Rand Mines Properties	2.00	
Rembrandt Group	†2.75	
Reynold's Bros.	†4.40	
Schlesinger Insurance	†1.40	+0.03
Slater Walker (SA)	2.75	−0.02
SA Breweries	1.69	−0.01
SA Distilleries and Wines	†4.25	
Syfrual	2.85	
Tollman	1.39	+0.13

NOTES: Overseas prices exclude $ premium. Belgian dividends are shown after withholding tax. ◆ DM50 denom. unless otherwise stated ♣ Kr.100 denom. unless otherwise stated ♥ Ptas.500 denom. unless otherwise stated ⊕ Frs.500 denom. unless otherwise stated ¶ Yen 50 denom. unless otherwise stated a Florins. b Schillings. c Cents. d Dividend after pending rights and/or scrip issue. e Per share. f Francs. g Gross div. %. h Assumed dividend after scrip and/or rights issue. k After local taxes. m % tax free. n Francs: including Unilac div. p Net. s Div and yield exclude special payment. t Indicated div. u Merger pending. * Asked. † Bid. § Traded. ‡ Seller. z Unofficial trading. r Assumed. xr Ex rights. x Share split. xd Ex dividend. xc Ex scrip issue. xa Ex all. ^Revised.

OVERSEAS SHARE INFORMATION

NEW YORK

[illegible]

CANADA

[illegible]

GERMANY ◆

Nov. 16	Prices Dm	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
A.E.G.	101.5	−2	10	4.8
Allianz Versich.	460	+2	15	1.6
B.M.W.	185.5	−6.5	16	4.1
B.A.S.F.A.G.	125	−3	16	5.4
Bayer	107	−2	14	6.4
Bayer Hypo	297	−3	20	3.4
Bayer Vereinsbk	304.5	−4.5	20	3.2
Commerzbank	171.5	−2	17	4.9
Contl. Gummi	71	−3	—	—
Daimler	282	−9	18	3.2
Degussa	251	−7.5	17	3.3
Demag	127.5		16	6.3
Deutsche Bank	241	−1	18	3.7
Dresdner	188.5	−1.5	18	4.7
Dyckerhoff Zem't	208	−4	15	3.6
Gelsenberg	98	−1.5	—	—
Gutehoffnung	112.5	−1.5	14	6.1
Hapag Lloyd	116.5	−3.5	9	3.9
Harpener (DM100)	166	−1.5	9	5.4
Hoechst	114	−5	15	6.4
Hoesch	46	−2	4	4.3
I. G. Farbenindlq	2.60		—	—
Kali Salz (DM 50)	83	−1.5	—	—
Karstadt	334	−6	20	2.9
Kaufhof	216.5	−1.5	20	4.6
Klock Humbolt	74.1	−4.4	4	2.6
Klockner (DM100)	107		6	5.2
Kr'ssMaffei (D100)	555		15.4	2.8
Krupp (DM100)	107	−6	—	—
KundenKreditBk	410	+6	20	2.2
Linde	138		14	5.1
LowenbrauDM100	2,500	−16	20	0.9
Lufthansa	50.1	+0.1	6	5.0
M.A.N.	116.1		12	5.2
M'esmannDM100	155.5	−2	10	6.3
Metallges'schaft	222	−3.2	8	1.8
Munch. Ruckvers	570	−10	18	1.7
Neckermann	106	−2	8	3.7
Preussag DM100	88.5	−1.5	—	—
RheinstahlDM100	100.1	−1.4	—	—
Rhein. WestElect	138.7	+0.7	16	5.8
Schering	394	−4	20	2.5
Siemens	218	−7.2	16	3.2
Sudzucker	277		18	3.1
Thyssen	58.5	+0.4	7	6.0
Vereinsbank	310	−2	18	3.0
Zeiss-Ikon	200		20	4.9

PARIS

Nov. 16	Price Frs.	+ or —	Div. Frs.	Yld. %
Air Liquide	273	+5	15.75	5.7
Aquitaine	520	−7	18	3.5
BanqueInd'ch'ne	241	+0.9	12	5.0
Beghin	183		10.50	5.7
B.S.N.	1,243	−6	36	3.0
Carrefour	2,930	−2	57	1.8
ChargeursReunis	266	−2	14.25	5.3
Ciments Lafarge	203	−1.5	15	7.4
Citroen	70		4.2	6.0
Fr. Petroles	210.8	+2.8	12	5.8
Cie Bancaire	524	−6	12	2.4
C.G.E.	428		24	5.6
Cie du Nord	34.5	+0.5	3.30	9.7
CreditComFr'nce	154.2	−0.8	9	5.8
Credit Foncier	390	+5	24	6.3
Denain N.E.	181.5	+2.2	15.75	8.7
S.A.Dunlop	46.5	−0.6	5.25	11.2
Esso Standard	119	+0.4	5.25	4.4
Fin. Jens	185		3	1.6
Fin. Haussmann	79.5		2.70	3.4
Gal. Lafayette	140.7	−0.3	—	—
Gen. Occidentale	366		15	4.1
Le Nickel	85	−0.9	—	—
L'Oreal	2,575	−80	27	1.1
Machines Bull	58.4	+2.5	—	—
Michelin "B"	1,580	+29	24.6	1.6
Paribas	205	−1.5	13½	6.6
Pechiney	137.6	−1.9	y12	8.6
Peugeot (Frs. 70)	389	+5	13.05	3.5
Pricel	397	−3.1	22.5	5.6
Printemps	124.3	+1.3	—	—
Redoute	466	+6	14½	3.0
Rhone Poulenc	157	−2	2.75	8.0
Sacilor SA	94.5	+0.2	—	—
Saint Gobain	176.5	−0.7	10.5	5.9
Soc Nat d'In	322	+1	18.3	5.7
Suez	330		20¼	6.3
CSF	137.2	+1.2	6.3	4.7
Thomson Brandt	250.5	−0.4	8.4	3.4
Usinor	115.5	+0.5	9	7.8
Viniprix	1,220	+20	18	1.4

OSLO ♣

Nov. 16	Price Krone	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
Amerika linjen	275	−2½	6	2.2
Bergens Privatbk	130	−1	9	6.9
Berg. Dampskib	127.5	−5	8	6.1
Borregaard	145	−5	4	2.8
BruusgaardKr500	2,300	−100	80	3.5
Creditbank	144		10	6.9
Dalfonn Kr1000	6,000	−100	100	1.7
Elkem Spig Kr50	231.25	−5	—	1.3
Pollum	130	−2.5	—	—
Hafslund	302.5	−2.5	10	3.3
Kosmos	970	−10	20	2.1
Kreditkassen	143	−1	10	7.0
Norsk Hydo Kr80	871.25	−15	48	0.5
Orkla Grube	465	−15	—	—
Storebrand	230		8	3.9

MILAN

Nov. 16	Price Lire	+ or —	Div. Lire	Yld. %
Alitalia Priv.	7,101	−49	—	—
ANIC	1,041	+1	—	—
Bastogi	1,910	−21	60	3.2
Breda	4,400	−80	100	2.3
Burgo	15,270	−280	—	—
Cantoni	18,000	−50	150	0.8
CIGA	6,430	−45	—	—
Cucurini	8,281	−44	300	3.6
Dalmine	325	−4	—	—
Erba	14,810	−640	210	1.4
Fiat	2,045	+5	120	—
Do. Priv	1,560	+10	120	—
Finsider	380	−14	—	—
Gen. Imch	649	−6	15	0.5
Generali	67,000	+580	500	7.4
IFI Pref	8,815	−5	150	2.3
Invest "B"	5,054	−116	140	2.8
Italcementi	30,450	−1,050	360	1.2
Italgas	926.5	−3.5	40	4.3
Italsider	820		—	—
La Centrale	17,850	−670	200	1.1
Marelli Ercole	925	+12	25	2.8
Mediobanco	78,300	−1,800	1,100	1.4
Mondadori Prev	3,750	+132	120	3.2
Montecatini Edis	880.5	−9.5	—	—
Motta	3,370		—	—
Olivetti (Priv.)	1,555	−27	70	4.5
Pirelli & C.	2,250	−50	90	4.0
Pirelli S.p.a.	1,265	+15	—	—
R'Un.A'dtica Sic.	88,000	−1,000	550	0.6
Rinascente	299.75	−1.50	—	—
Rumanica	1,500		—	—
S.A.F.F.A.	7,790	−105	144	1.9
S.T.E.T.	2,699	−17	157	5.8
Snia Viscosa	2,475	−56	—	—

SWITZERLAND ⊕

Nov. 16	Price Frs.	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
Allum Bearer	2,060	−76	12	2.9
Bally Holding	625		5	3.8
Brown Boveri 'A'	940	−20	10	5.3
CIBA.GEIGY, Br	1,870	−5	22	1.1
Do. Do. Br. Part	1,470	−50	22	1.5
Do. Do. Reg.	965	−20	22	2.3
Credit Suisse	3,490	−55	16	2.3
Fischer Anler	920	−10	12	6.5
Fonss (N.P.V.)	108	−1	2.60	1.2
Gr'ndM'gJelF10	1,540	−10	16	1.2
Hoffm'n La Roche	130,250	−250	1050	0.8
Interfood B.	5,500	−100	20	1.7
Juvena Br.	2,370	−30	35	1.5
Do. P.S.	151	−2½	3.6	2.4
LandisGyr (F200)	1,300	−10	12	1.8
Lonza	1,680	−70	10	3.0
Nestle Bearer	3,740	−110	85.8	2.2
Do. Reg.	2,240	−60	85.8	3.7
Sandoz (F250)	2,975	−100	26	2.2
Saurer Arbon	1,620	−10	11	3.4
Soc. Intl. Pirelli	202	−2	14	7.0
Swissair (Br) F350	548	−14	8.6	5.5
Swiss Bank Corp.	3,650	−10	16	2.2
Un.Bankof Switz.	3,950	−10	20	2.5
Unilever	US$7.5		—	—
Winterth'rBearer	1,920	−5	30	1.6
Zurich Insurance	6,825	−50	40	2.9

TOKYO ¶

Nov. 16	Price Yen	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
Asahi Glass	298		16	2.7
Canon	253	−2	12	2.4
Dai Nippon Print	330		16	2.4
Fuji Photo Film	280	−15	15	2.7
Hitachi	163	−2	12	3.7
Honda Motors	480	−20	18	1.9
C. Itoh	611	−9	12	1.0
Japan Airlines	2,000	−50	8	2.0
Kansai Elect Pw.	750	−40	10	6.7
Komatsu	260	−6	14	2.7
Kubota	382	−2	15	2.0
Matsushita	470	−36	20	2.0
Mitsubishi Bank	540	−1	12	1.1
Mitsubishi Heavy	163	−6	12	3.7
Mitsubishi Corp.	450	−4	13	1.5
Mitsui & Co.	409	−3	14	1.7
Mitsukoshi	529	−10	20	1.9
Nissan Motors	335	−10	12	1.8
Shiseido	1,000	−20	25	1.3
Sony	3,800	−120	30	0.3
Taisho Marine	415	−15	11	1.3
Takeda Chemical	235	−3	15	3.2
Teijin	345	−6	8	1.2
Tokio Marine	462	−16	11	1.2
Tokyo Elect Pwr.	695	−25	10	7.2
Toshiba	122	−3	8	3.3
Toray	189	−4	12	3.2
Toyota Motor	491	−17	15	1.6

Source Nikko Securities, Tokyo.

VIENNA

Nov. 16	Price %	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
Creditanstalt	390		19	2.6
Perlmooser	410	−10	12	3.0
Selecta	840	−9	50	6.1
Semperit	347	−1	9	2.6
Steyr Daimler	196		10	5.1
Veit Magnesit	359		23	6.4

AUSTRALIA

[illegible]

BRUSSELS

[illegible]

COPENHAGEN

[illegible]

AMSTERDAM

[illegible]

STOCKHOLM

[illegible]

SPAIN ♥

[illegible]

STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

quities rally on hopes of early end to oil embargo

dex gains 5.5 to 402.6 but still down 27.7 on week

UNT DEALING DATES

Option			
gs	Declara- tions	Last Dealings	Account Day
9 Nov.	8 Nov.	9 Nov.	20
2 Nov.	22 Nov.	23 Dec.	4
6 Dec.	6 Dec.	7 Dec.	18

"w time" dealings may take place from p.m. three business days earlier.

ity markets ended the first f the Account in much er fashion after the previous day slide to 27-month " which followed Tuesday's ency action by the Govern- to defend sterling and the Three pay rules. President 's reported remarks about ossibility of an easing of l supply situation came too do much for stock market but prices, which through- e day had been slightly on the overnight levels, more sharply in inter-office gs. Despite the continuation firmer trend which de- d late on Thursday, the -share index, which closed at 402.6 yesterday, had one worst weeks on record with for the period of 27.7, per cent.

edged made further slight ss on the Government's although the shock brought by Tuesday's sudden hoist per cent. in Minimum Lend- Rate left the Government ties Index 2.84 down on the at 62.17, a fall of 4.4 per Discount Houses, which higher yesterday in line the general trend, were the major casualties on the st rate move with a drop FT-Actuaries sector index ull 19 per cent. at 188.67.

s steadier

rall, business was fairly but conditions were much r helped by the strong l denials of rumours about minent mini-Budget and the Minister's confident remarks the economy's growth tial. A better trend in d-line stocks was reflected in leading falls (7:3) in FT-quoted Industrials for the first time this week.

A dramatic week in Gilt-edged came quietly to its close with quotations generally ¼ higher on the day but as much as four points down over the period. Trading yesterday was something of an anti-climax with sporadic demand, which included bear closing, nudging prices slightly higher. A minor feature was further buying of Savings 3 per cent. 1965-75, attractive to surtax payers, which rose 7/16 to 89 11/16. Corporations were idle but staged small rallies ranging to a point.

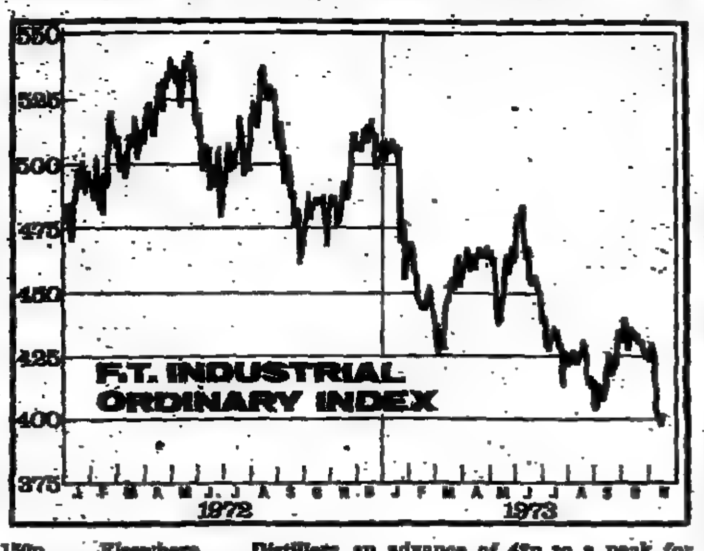
Business remained on a good level in the investment currency market, but sellers predominated early and the premium reacted to 37½ per cent. However, Wall Street's opening strength later produced fresh demand and the rate at the close was 38¼ per cent., only ⅛ lower on the day. Yesterday's USE conversion factor was 0.7932 (0.7885).

Discounts better

Discounts ended what has been a depressing week's trade on a quietly firm note yesterday. The persistent small selling, which had been evident since the money curbs announced by the Government on Tuesday, dried up and, with the appearance of a few "cheap" buyers, prices closed up to 25p better. Allen Harvey and Ross put on that much to 425p in a thin market, but still sustained a fall on the week of 90p. Alexanders picked up 10p to 195p. With the exception of Barclays which eased 2p to 352p, leading Banks closed firmer for choice after a quiet trade. Midland and National Westminster both rose 8p to 362p and 342p respectively while Lloyds put on 6p at 280p.

C. E. Heath provided most of the interest in Insurances, jumping 27p to 270p on revived speculative buying. "Royals," on the other hand, shed 7p more to a 1973 "low" of 277p on further consideration of the poor third-quarter figures.

In Breweries, a considerable amount of speculative interest was again shown in Scottish and Newcastle following favourable Press comment and after a fairly busy trade the shares closed 2½p better at 86½p. Morland, results due on Tuesday, picked up 10p of the previous day's 25p fall at 440p, while further consideration of the interim results left Young and Company's 10p harder at 150p. Elsewhere, Distillers traded quietly but improved in the later trade to close 3p better at 157p.



Buildings recovered part of the recent sharp decline prompted by the Government's monetary curbs. Magnet Joinery were outstanding at 282p, up 22p, while rises of 5p or so were recorded in Geo. Wimpey, 119p, Greaves Organisation, 62p, and David Charles, 104p. Orme Developments moved up 3p to 48p with the help of option business, while Rugby Portland Cement closed 3½p better at 73p following Press comment.

I.C.I. firmed 2p to 241p. Revived demand lifted Fisons 17p to 333p, but Hickson and Welch slipped 5p to 305p. Alida Packaging finished 1p off at 111p despite higher first-half profits.

Higher interim figures did little for Grampian TV "A", which closed 1p easier at 38p.

Store leaders managed to close 1p or 2p better after thin trading, with Marks and Spencer the latter amount up at 248p, after 242p. Elsewhere, Forbuoys featured with an advance of 43p to a peak for the year of 293p in response to the recommended 305p cash terms from Gallaher. Other newsagents moved ahead in sympathy, with Martin the Newsagents closing 12p to the good at 174p and NSS 8p up at 90p. In Mail Orders, Empire Stores eased further to 159p, before recovering late to 162p for a net loss of 1p. New Day, 93p, recouped half the previous day's fall of 8p, while Henry Wigfall rallied 11p to 306p. Dixons Photographic put on 4p to 64p and Queen Street Warehouses 1½p to 11½p, while Highlight Sports, after the chairman's encouraging statement at the annual meeting, rallied 2p to 61p.

There was little business in leading Electricals, although prices made a steadier showing and improved late with the general trend before closing a shade below the best. G.E.C. finished 4p better at 142p, after 143p, and EMI 5p up at 154p. Reyrolle Parsons picked up 2p to 86p, while Philips' Lamp rose 14p to 734p. Elsewhere, BSR hardened in the late dealings to 136p for a gain of 4p, while a similar improvement occurred in Muirhead, 60p.

Leading Engineering made fresh "lows" for the year before rallying in the late business; they included both Tube Investments and GKN which were little changed finally at the respective prices of 350p, after 343p, and 276p, after 271p. Metal Box, in contrast, picked up on the sharply higher profits forecast to close 10p up at 258p after a fair trade. Second-line issues also rallied.

After Thursday's fall of 28p on disappointment with the interim figures, Pork Farms rallied 12p to 197p. Spillers, 48p, and RHM, 40p, hardened 1½p apiece in belated response to the Government approval for bread price increases, while Oriel Foods firmed 1p to 191p on the projected offer of 205p cash a share from RCA Corporation. Robertson Foods, at 91p, recouped 3p of the previous day's loss of 10p which followed the interim figures. Among firmer Supermarkets, Kwik Save attracted interest and finished 4p better at 140p.

After looking steadier during the day, leading miscellaneous Industrials gained ground "after hours" to end with rises up to 5p, as in Beecham, 291p. Bowater, 176p, and Glaxo, 412p, were both 4p better, while Turner and Newall picked up 3p to 156p. Rank "A" moved between extremes of 390p and 405p, before finishing unaltered on the day at 395p. With the Vlasov-Capitalfin consortium still buying in the market, Shipping Industrial moved 19p higher in a good business to equal the former's cash offer price of 535p. B. Pertleman rose afresh by 8p to a 1973 peak of 77p, still benefiting from the advance in half-time profits. Further speculative buying raised Negretti and Zambra 5p more to 95p and National Carbonising 4p further to 63p. Myson Group, 168p, and Valor, 102p, both gained about 8p, while Macanie (London), 21p, recovered half of Thursday's 6p fall which followed the poor interim statement. Jardine Mattheson rose 18p to 442p in Hong Kong issues.

Motors made a more cheerful showing despite the sharp downturn in U.K. car production in September and Esso's warning that petrol for their customers will be rationed immediately. British Leyland ended ½p firmer at 23p and Dunlop 3p dearer at 74p.

Leading Papers tended firmer as in DRG, 5p higher at 106p. Elsewhere, McCorquodale were similarly higher at 295p, but Waddington "B" fell 18p to 190p. Late news that London and County Securities (up 3p at 168p) had lapsed its bid for Inveresk saw the latter tentatively fall to 53p before an unchanged close of 56p. Newspapers steadied, United rallying 4p to 322p. John Menzies were also a better market at 190p, up 5p.

Properties rally

After the recent sharp setback on the Government's credit curbs, speculative buyers were tempted back into the Property sector yesterday and prices staged a partial recovery which continued after the House close. Closing levels were generally the day's best. Among the leaders, Star regained 11p to 168p and MEPC, 8p to 210p. Ahead of next Tuesday's interim results, Land Securities rallied 7p to 235p, leaving a loss of 37p on the week. Among the secondary issues, Keith and Henderson, 138p, and Galliford Estates, 168p, both moved ahead 15p, while Artagen rallied 18p to 164p.

President Nixon's remarks about the oil situation created a flurry of interest in Oil shares after-hours; earlier trade had been very sedate and caused little price movement. British Petroleum were a big attraction with demand coming from both local and U.S. sources leading to a close of 9p higher at 561p. Shell were not outdone and in brisk trading rose 7p to 244p, after 245p, while Burmah gained 4p to 412p, after 415p. Royal Dutch moved up ½ to £18⅝ and Ultramar jumped to 236p before ending a net 10p to the good at 228p. In the Canadian section, United Canso advanced ¼ to £12¼ as did Ranger, to £17¾. Among Australians, Woodside-Burmah were firmer from the start and ended 4p up at 90p.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

—	Nov. 16	Nov. 15	Nov. 14	Nov. 13	Nov. 12	Nov. 9	A Year ago
Government Secs.	62.17	62.04	61.89	62.59	64.70	65.01	72.80
Fixed Interest	61.88	61.73	61.79	63.16	65.00	65.21	74.08
Industrial Ordinary	402.6	397.1	405.8	405.5	422.9	430.3	490.4
Gold Mines	148.4	144.7	145.1	152.2	151.1	148.0	84.3
Ord. Div. Yield %	4.71	4.77	4.71	4.69	4.51	4.41	3.34
Earnings Yld % (full)(a)	10.61	10.74	10.59	10.56	10.17	9.98	5.37
P/E Ratio (net) (a) (b)	12.89	12.74	12.92	12.95	13.45	13.62	18.63
Dealings marked	8,075	8,550	9,145	7,857	9,813	8,932	10,401

*10 a.m. 399.0 11 a.m. 398.5 Noon 398.4 1 p.m. 398.9 2 p.m. 398.9 3 p.m. 398.8

Latest index 01-246 8026

(a) Based on 50 per cent. corporation tax. (b) Nil=12.71. † On old basis.

HIGHS AND LOWS

—	1973 High	1973 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
Govt. Secs.	72.08 (29/1)	61.89 (14/11)	127.4 (9/1/35)	61.89 (14/11/73)
Fixed Int.	73.83 (23/1)	61.73 (15/11)	150.4 (28/11/47)	61.73 (15/11/73)
Ind. Ord.	509.6 (10/1)	397.1 (15/11)	543.6 (19/5/72)	49.4 (26/6/40)
Gold Mines	203.6 (6/7)	93.5 (15/1)	203.6 (6/7/73)	43.5 (26/10/71)

S.E. ACTIVITY

—	Nov. 16	Nov. 15
Daily—		
Gilt Edged	151.8	148.8
Industrials	254.5	285.1
Speculative	102.0	111.4
Totals	183.8	194.6
5-day Av.—		
Gilt Edged	136.9	132.7
Industrials	292.0	299.2
Speculative	113.6	112.9
Totals	197.7	201.6

Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 15/10/26. Fixed Int. 1928. Ind. Ord. 1/7/35. Gold Mines 12/9/55. S.E. Activity July-Dec. 1942.

FT—ACTUARIES INDICES

—	Nov. 16	Nov. 15	Nov. 14	Nov. 13	Nov. 12	Nov. 9	A Year ago
Industrial Group	163.27	161.50	165.75	168.75	173.50	175.58	205.75
500 Shares	172.39	170.44	174.30	176.74	181.79	183.89	214.14
Div. Yield pc	4.43	4.48	4.38	4.31	4.19	4.15	3.41
P/E Ratio (net)	13.82	13.66	13.97	14.16	14.57	14.73	†17.35
All Share	173.12	171.03	175.37	178.41	185.69	185.89	215.34
Consols Yield pc	12.07	12.14	12.21	*12.05	11.80	11.42	3.19

† On old basis. * Corrected.

Elsewhere, Berry Wiggins recovered 6p to 131p.

Trusts and Financials took a turn for the better yesterday on the appearance of "cheap" buyers. Bishopsgate Property and General Investments put on 10p to 260p following the results, while revived speculative interest lifted Northborough Investments 9p to 132p. London Merchant Securities put on 5p to 109p and Erskine House added 10p at 123p. The increased offer of 109p per share from Parambe helped Surinvest rise 7p to 105p. Ashbourne Investments, however, lost 3½p more to 44½p, for a two-day fall of 8½p on disappointment that the bid discussions with Crest International Securities, 3p better at 56p, and Corporate Guarantee, unaltered at 34p, have been terminated.

"Cheap" buying interest, especially in the later trade, helped Bats recover 7p at 254p and and Rothmans International firm 1½p to 52½p. Imps ended 1p better at 81p.

Golds firm

Gold shares closed firmly yesterday after a week in which this market has suffered a sharp setback following the uncertainties created by news that the two-tier gold system has been abandoned. Encouraged by the subsequent steadiness of the bullion price after its initial fall, modest buying resulted in the index closing 3.7 better at 148.4 and showing a rise of 0.4 on the week.

Buffels (960p) and Western Deep (800p) were both 20p up while gains of 15p were seen in East Rand Proprietary (360p), East Driefontein (345p) and Harmony (315p) among many lesser rises.

Financials were often a few pence better and Selection Trust recovered 10p to 370p after having fallen 15p on Thursday following the lower half-year profit. Patino gained ½ to £13.

Platinums recouped part of Thursday's losses with Potgietersrust improving 4p to 167p. In Diamonds, De Beers eased 2p to 308p; the Bearer closed a further 7p off at 365p after 360p following the previous day's net fall of 18p on a reportedly sizeable selling order from the Continent.

Broken Hill South were again the feature of Australians, rising 15p more to 215p; the shares have gained 45p this week partly in line with the better tendency of Australians following news that mining tax concessions are to be restored and partly in recognition of the company's big deposits of phosphate. Mount Lyell were 4p better at 120p and Great Boulder showed a similar gain at 57p.

Elsewhere, Beralt hardened to 28p in sympathy with the wolfram price. Northgate put on 15p to 260p and Tara were 7p up at 652p.

THORISED UNIT TRUSTS (p★★★)

				§ Yield %
Abacus Arbuthnot Ltd.				
36.7	39.7		2.66	
Accum.	37.1	40.1		2.66
Units	31.1	34.1	+1.8	2.42
Accum.	31.1	34.4	+1.8	2.42
Units	34.5	37.3		5.30

(a) (g) The Crescent Group
Crescent Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
4, Melville Cres., Edinburgh 3.
21, Spring Gardens, Manch.

Crescent Growth	30.9	32.4	—0.1	2.86
Cres. Internat'l	41.5	43.7	—0.4	0.10
Cres. High Dist.	39.0	41.1	—0.1	5.26
Cres. Reserves	35.3	37.1	+0.3	2.81

(a) J. L. Consumer Fund Mngrs.
J.L. Int. Fund | 28.5 | 30.8 | ...... | 1.45

(a) (g) Key Fund Managers Ltd.
25, Milk Street, EC2V 8JE.

KeyCapital Fnd	62.9	66.4	+0.8	2.23
Key Exempt Fund	95.5	100.5	......	4.81
Key Income Fnd	68.2	71.7	+0.6	5.60

(a) National Westminster
41, Lothbury, EC2P 2BP.

Capital (Accum)	48.7	51.5	+0.2	2.72
Income	27.2	28.7	+0.1	4.60
Financial	33.6	35.4	+0.6	2.74
Growth Inv.	73.3	77.2	+0.6	3.47

(a) (g) NEL Trust Managers Ltd.

(g) Sebag Unit Tst. Managers Ltd.
PO Box 511, Bucklersbury Hse., EC4.

Sebag Capital Fd	23.9	24.8	......	2.70
Sebag Income Fd	23.3	24.2	......	5.90

Not available to public generally.

(a) Security Selection Ltd.

[INSURANCE, PROPERTY, BONDS PRICES PAGE 29]

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS FUNDS (★★★d)

Albany Management Co. Ltd.
Albany Fd. Ltd. | $11.78 | 12.82 | ...... | 1.00

Australian Inv. Man. Corpn.
P.O. Box 1861, Hamilton, Bermuda.

Fidelity Mngmt. & Res. (Bda.) Ltd.
P.O. Box 670, Hamilton, Bermuda.

Fidelity Int. Fund	$10.78	—0.48	—
Fidelity Pacific Fd	$24.40	......	—
Fidelity World Fd	$10.62	......	0.11
Fidelity Stur. Fds.	—	......	—
Series 'A' (Int'nal)	£4.00	—0.58	—
Series 'B' (Pacific)	£4.35	......	—

Negit Ltd.
Bank of Bermuda Bldg., Hamilton, Bermuda.
NAV Nov. 9 1973 | 597p | —27 | —

Old Court Fund Mgrs. Ltd.
P.O. Box 58, St. Julians Ct., St. Julians Ave., Guernsey, C.I.
OC Eq'ty Fd Oct. 31 | 48.9 | 51.8xd | ...... | 1.91

COMPANY NEWS

Wedgwood profit doubled after six months

ON SALES 20 per cent. ahead at £12.86m., profits of Wedgwood, the fine bone china and earthenware group, have more than doubled from £770,000 to £1.64m. in the six months ended September 29, 1973.

After tax and taking in extraordinary credits of £382,000 (£94,000), the net balance is £1.18m., against £514,000—equal to earnings per share of 10.25p (5.09p) or 6.93p (4.14p) excluding the credits.

Chairman Mr. A. Bryan says that normally he would regard the first half results as a good start to the current year. "The results are indeed closely in line with our carefully laid plans and if our dam holds against the ever increasing floods of new regulations, restrictions, advices and admonitions . . . we may yet achieve our target for the year to March 30, 1974."

At this time he is confident that if the little freedom left to management is not further encroached upon, "we shall do so." However, it should not be expected that the exceptional disproportion in the two half years' results in 1972/73 will be repeated in the current year.

Retailing of group products continues to be buoyant in all markets—Mr. Bryan singles out the U.S., Canada, Australia and the home market in this respect.

Rising costs have left no option but to increase export prices and, within the limits allowed, home market prices, and there has been no evidence of consumer resistance to these adjustments. Export prices will be increased again generally throughout the group on January 1.

Members are told that immediate prospects appear favourable and although Phase III looks as though it will bring higher costs and lower margins in the home market, the continuing floating of sterling may be helpful in the further development of the overseas business.

It is likely that second half sales will exceed those of the first.

For tax reasons the interim dividend will be paid in April 1974 and it is anticipated that it will be increased by the permissible margin. For 1972-73 an interim of 3.75p and a final of 4.125p were followed by a 100 per cent. scrip issue. Pre-tax profit for that year was £2.58m.

	Six months 1973 £000	1972 £000
External sales	12,864	11 071
Trading profit	1,756	981
Interest payable	110	211
Profit before tax	1,646	770
Taxation	844	384
Net profit	796	420
Extraordinary credits*	382	94
Net profit	1,178	514

* Comprises exchange profits £69,000 (£94,000) and surplus on disposal of freehold and leasehold properties £313,000 (nil).

See Lex

BURRELL

Burrell's interim dividend is lifted from 5 per cent. to 5.5 per cent. gross—the total for the previous year was 15.75 per cent. and not 10.75 per cent. as shown in Thursday's report. The figure was correctly given in the Dividends Announced table.

Marling profit and interim up

FROM SALES of £3.49m., against £2.28m., profits of Marling Industries, manufacturers of industrial textiles, have expanded by £147,000 to £355,000 in the six months ended September 30, 1973.

The interim dividend is raised from 0.33p—adjusted for a scrip issue—to a gross equivalent 0.35p-0.245p net. Total for 1972-73 was equal to 1.12p, paid from profits of £436,000.

	First half 1973-74 £000	1972-73 £000
Group sales	3,498	2,275
Profit	355	208
Taxation	130	66
Net profit	225	142

A revaluation of group properties shows a surplus of £399,000 which has been placed to reserves.

Nigerian Electricity

Power sales of Nigerian Electricity Supply Corporation amounted to £418,573 for the half-year to August 31, 1973, compared with £396,615 for the corresponding period a year earlier. Pre-tax profit advanced from £139,928 to £160,341—the figure for the year to February 28, 1973 was £325,058.

An interim dividend of 3.5p net per £1 share, equal to last year's 5p gross, has already been announced. The 1972-73 gross total was 10p.

	Half year 1973 £	1972 £
Power sales	418,573	396,615
Group profit	160,341	139,928
Taxation	75,000	67,163
Attributable	85,341	66,798
First interim	56,416	52,023
Retained	28,925	14,775

Units sold amounted to 55.1m. (49.1m.).

Turnbull Scott

Improved current year results are foreseen by the directors of the Turnbull Scott Shipping Company taking into account the present level of the freight market. In 1972-73 the group incurred a loss of £89,200.

For the half year ended July 31, 1973, they report an improved trading profit. Freights have been higher but costs continue to increase at an "alarming rate."

The interim dividend is maintained at 5p gross—3.5p net. Previous total was 11.07p.

As forecast S.T.S. Eastgate was accepted by underwriters at a constructive total loss.

The directors have agreed to acquire a 3-64th share in a semi-submersible drilling rig under construction in Finland. The venture will be undertaken by one of the Bitish owners. Turnbull's share will be taken by a new wholly-owned subsidiary Warolle.

The Trongate has been sold at a "satisfactory" price to Danish buyers for delivery in November Whitehall Shipping, in which Turnbull has a 50 per cent. stake, has ordered a further chemical carrier of about 3,300 d.w.t. from Norway for delivery in July 1974 A similar chemical carrier has been ordered by Turnbull from Richards (Shipbuilders) for delivery in June 1975.

Hawtin over £1m. in first half

ON A SUBSTANTIALLY increased turnover of £4.91m., against £2.79m., group pre-tax profit of Hawtin amounted to £1,001,000, compared with £938,000, for the half year to July 31, 1973, after increased interest charges of £1,645,000, against £485,000. Profit for the year to January 31, 1973 was £1,836,232.

Fully diluted earnings per 10p Ordinary for the half year are shown at 1.54p (1.51p), and the interim dividend is 5.6 per cent. net—equal to last year's 8 per cent. gross. The 1972-73 gross total was 23.2 per cent. The business is that of banking and finance.

	Half year 1973 £000	1972 £000
Turnover	4,913	2,791
Profit before int.	2,646	1,422
Int. payable	1,643	453
Profit before tax	1,001	938
Taxation	467	427
Minority	23	36
Attributable	511	475
Dividends	179	179
Balance	332	296

Regarding the transaction for the £10m. secured subordinated convertible loan from Associates First Capital Corporation concluded last month, the directors say the 8½ per cent. interest on this will help to alleviate the high cost of money prevailing in recent months.

Good start by Highlight Sports

Highlight Sports' chairman, Mr. Sidney Solomons, told yesterday's annual meeting that all divisions were trading well in the current year and with turnover "considerably higher" than a year ago "we are looking for substantially improved results at the half-way stage."

Commenting on the most recent acquisition, Joncraig Holdings, Mr. Solomons said that after an initial setback, this company was "now really proving itself to be the success we anticipated."

He also disclosed that Highlight had recently won orders in the U.S. for women's wear totalling about £500,000.

Little change at Wolsey

With sales up from £7.66m. to £8.65m. trading profit of Courtaulds subsidiary Wolsey was off by £2,000 to £183,000 on the half year to June 30, 1973. Previous total was £1.59m. after crediting £730,000 rent charges.

As before there is no tax charge for the six months which includes results of Hollos' and Vine (Mantle and Costume manufacturers) and Hyvogue and a hosiery unit, all acquired from fellow subsidiary of Courtalds on January 1, 1973.

Dares Estates profit

A turnround from a group loss of £170,082, to a profit of £165,905 is reported by Dares Estates, for the half year to June 30, 1973.

Again there is no tax charge for the half year. For all of 1972, a taxable profit of £498,242 was announced.

Turnover for the half year was £876,273 (£730,284).

Profit attributable emerged at £156,424 (loss £170,082) to which was added surplus on sale of investment properties less capital gains tax £11,042 (£18,254) and surplus on debenture stock redemption £14,812 (nil).

King and Shaxson

Due to the sharp rise in interest rates during the six months ended October 31, 1973, bill brokers and banking agents King and Shaxson traded at a small loss, after writing down all investments to market value.

However the directors report that the company is at present trading at a profit.

And the interim dividend is maintained at 4.375 per cent. gross—3.0625 per cent. net. Previous total was 18.375 per cent. paid from profit of £351,470 net.

MORGAN-GRAMPIAN

Morgan-Grampian, the trade and technical, professional and consumer publishing group, which recently acquired the women's magazine "Over 21," has announced its decision not to proceed with the tentative plans it had been discussing with BEAP, the subsidiary of the Dutch publishers Vnu, to publish women's magazines jointly in this country, through a new company.

W. H. SMITH BUYS

W. H. Smith and Sons has acquired E. Hill and Sons (Reading) which has retail shops in Reading, Newbury and Guildford. There will be no redundancies, it is stated.

GUS current year sales and profits ahead

SIR ISAAC WOLFSON, chairman of Great Universal Stores, told yesterday's annual meeting in London that in the first six months of the current year, sales and pre-tax profits of the group would compare satisfactorily with the same period last year.

Figures for the period were to be published shortly, he added.

In the face of economic uncertainties and severe inflationary pressure, the Board was hopeful that the group's spread of activity in retailing, finance and property at home and overseas, coupled with prudent accountancy methods, "should help us to continue to make progress related to the economic circumstances of those countries in which we are trading," said Sir Isaac.

Additional selling space was being brought into operation, and there were plans for substantial capital investment in mail order and commercial interests. As well as internal growth "we will continue our policy of expansion by acquisition as and when suitable opportunities arise."

Meeting Page 14

Silhouette up by over 16%

TAXABLE PROFIT of Silhouette (London), the foundation garments and swimwear group, improved by more than 16 per cent. to £398,812, on turnover up almost 20 per cent. to a record £4.6m., for the six months to June 30, 1973.

Chairman, Mr. T. Blumenau, said in April, when last year's preliminary results were announced, that despite the cost of expansion he anticipated that 1973 would show a "satisfactory increase in profitability." Group pre-tax profit for 1972 was £468,724 on which dividends totalling 27.5 per cent. gross were paid.

Meanwhile an interim dividend unchanged at 10 per cent. gross is declared—7 per cent. net.

Mr. Blumenau says that all the group's U.K. companies were prevented from achieving better figures by a considerable shortage of labour. Both Silhouette (Salop) and J. O. Pierson increased sales and profitability, but the decision to build up the labour force at Thurnscoe—to double its size from the beginning of the year—resulted in its loss situation continuing.

In overseas trading at Forma—the Belgian subsidiary—the loss for the first half 1972 has been reversed and this company increased sales and traded profitably. Difficult condtions in France, and a substantial investment in new sales representatives at Silhouette (Paris) reduced profitability of this subsidiary.

Noting that the first six months' trading normally provides a greater proportion of the year's results the chairman says that the order book at the end of October in all companies, with the exception of France, was considerably higher than 12 months earlier. Results for the remainder of 1973 depend "very much on the ability to recruit enough labour in the U.K. to convert these orders into deliveries to customers by the end of the year."

He adds that this, combined with raw material shortages and Government legislation, make any accurate forecasting of the full year "very difficult."

Ross Chemical

Group net profit of Ross Chemical and Service was £249,416 for the year to September 30, 1973, compared with £267,050 for the previous 15 months' period, struck after heavier tax of £206,335 against £168,691.

Tax adjustment debits, including for deferred tax, of £113,222 (credit £5,453) leave a profit balance of £136,194 against £272,503.

A final dividend of 3.275p net per 50p share—£62,741—makes with the 1.925p interim—£36,878—a total equal to 7.43p gross (against 8.86p for the 15 months) the maximum permitted. The company became a subsidiary of Proprietors of Hay's Wharf in June 1972.

In connection with the fire which occurred earlier this month at the Falkirk Works of the subsidiary, Scottish Tar Distillers, the directors say fire insurance assessors consider the group is adequately insured for plant and stock losses. Production has been affected but the group is insured for loss of profits covering an indemnity period of eighteen months.

Bishopsgate Property tops £1m.

AFTER CLIMBING from £390,134 to £614,700 at half-way revenue of Bishopsgate Property and General Investments rose by £33,395 to £1.03m. for the year to June 30 1973.

Earnings are given as 9.7p against 9.2p per £1 share.

After tax of £267,255 (£251,790) net revenue was £761,222 compared with £743,292 for 1971/72. Dividends absorb £590,642 (£624,168).

At the year end net asset value was 315p (282p).

Truscon back to profit

Building contractors and engineers, Truscon, reports a first half group pre-tax profit of £72,000, against a loss of £35,000, including interest of £48,000 (£25,000). Turnover was £1.63m., against £1.48m.

After tax of £34,000 the net profit is £38,000. Preference dividend takes £4,500, leaving £33,500 attributable to Ordinary.

The 1972 £35,000 loss was fully absorbed by an exceptional profit on sale of assets of £210,000 which after tax and Preference dividend left a profit of £100,500 for the period.

Early this month the company disposed of its Ordinary shares in DHI Services to Cape Asbestos for £10,000 plus the value of net assets remaining at December 31, 1973. On completion Coolag, a subsidiary of Truscon, signed five year trading agreements with Cape Asbestos covering the supply of Prinspipe, the district heating pipework system installed by DHI.

Bremar's midway upsurge

DUE MAINLY to continued expansion of the group's domestic and international banking activities Bremar Holdings has achieved a advance in group taxable profit from £17,749 to £335,343 for the six months to September 30, 197[illegible]

Pre-tax profit for all the previous year was £463,731.

	Six months 1973-74 £	197[illegible] £
Profit	335,563	180,[illegible]
Share associates losses	228	3,5[illegible]
Taxation	115,987	41,[illegible]
Net profit	219,576	128,[illegible]
Extraordinary items*	—	1,[illegible]
Minorities	12,075	18,[illegible]
Bonus issue‡	92,036	—
Forward	563,107	388,[illegible]

* Profit on sale of subsidiary. † Lo[illegible] ‡ By subsidiary.

In February, by mutual agreement, negotiations under which Way Holdings would acquire the capital of Bremar were discontinued.

Kayser Bondor improves

For the first six months of 19[illegible] Kayser Bondor reports a turnround from a loss of £27,000 to profit of £114,000; and the directors expect this improvement be maintained during the second half. Profits for 1972 was £291,8[illegible]

After tax charge of £43,0[illegible] (credit £12,000) the first half net profit is £69,000 (£15,000 loss).

This hosiery and lingerie manufacturer is a subsidiary Courtaulds.

Hi-Fi

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT

No breakthroughs but the boom continues

BY COLIN INMAN

" And you thought Fisher was yond your reach" says a rrent advertisement in the fi Press. An ad. for a comete system, perhaps, costing out £150? Not a bit of it; sher are promoting a quadraonic receiver (tuner-amplifier English) costing £286. Add a rntable, pick-up arm and rtridge and four loudspeakers d you wouldn't have much ange from £600. The thought this equipment not being yond his reach may bring a y smile to the face of the verage" reader of hi-fi urnals who, on the evidence ovided by their "question and swer" columns seems to ve about £150 to spend.

But nothing is surprising in e hi-fi industry, which has come used to reports that its es are "doubling each year," d over the past couple of ars this does seem to have en the case. Total sales of er £100m. are expected for 73. Figures for "audio" or d-fi" sales are not easy to me by since there is as yet British standard covering industry and no two people ree as to what is high elity and what is not. However, a report due to be pubhed later this month by aresearch, entitled "Tuners, nplifiers and combined hi-fi its," gives a valuable statisal breakdown of the market home and abroad and of the lustry's structure.

The continuing boom has ken place without much assistce from any major technical eakthrough. True, quadphony has begun to make mark, but at present quadphonic equipment is thought make up well under 10 per nt. of total sales. This failure make a real impact is a result the manufacturers' inability agree on a common standard. At present there are two main ethods of producing fourannel sound. One is the screte system, developed by C Nivico of Japan and backed RCA (which issues fourannel discrete records), andoviding the "purest" quadphony. The other is the matrix proach, which divides again o a number of competing -systems, the best known of which are SQ (the CBS system adopted by EMI, which has issued a large selection of SQ records), and the Sansui QS system, promoted by Pye.

There are several other matrix systems in existence, and a further body of thought reckons that a *three*-channel system would have produced just as good a sound without throwing up the technical barriers that are currently proving so difficult to surmount. My own advice to the prospective purchaser would be not to bother at present; let the industry sort itself out a bit first. (*It is*, of course, possible to create a sort of surround sound by connecting one or two rear speakers to the positive amplifier speaker terminals; several new amplifiers provide facilities for this "ambiophonic" sound.) The BBC is experimenting with the various systems but has come to no firm decisions as yet.

Better value

The "average" buyer, however, seems to want a stereo set-up costing £100-£150, although opinions differ as to whether true high fidelity can be obtained for this sort of figure. What one can say with certainty is that better value throughout the whole range of prices is available to-day than only a year or two ago, and that by choosing carefully it is possible to obtain satisfying sound from disc for a little over £100, though you would need to add £30-£40 for a radio tuner.

It is in this area, too, that it is most difficult to discriminate between the good, the average and the awful. Many of the "unit audio" systems that make up the bulk of sales at the lower end of the market contain a large proportion of the same ingredients, sometimes differing only in the quality of finish. There would be much to be said for buying the model which sports the biggest discount if it were not for the fact that its original price might have been set artificially high as an encouragement to the discounters to stock it.

Further up the price scale it seems to be a case of manufacturers trying to jump on each other's bandwagons. Thus we find both Goldring and Garrard producing belt-driven turntables to satisfy the increasing number of buyers who favour the silent operation that this can offer. A further Garrard *model* incorporates quadraphonic decoders in the turntable module, an idea that may well catch on. Goldring have also moved into the "unit" field, joining Goodmans, Wharfedale, Philips, HMV, Dynatron and a number of others.

Many of these "unit audio" packages give good value for money, particularly when *offered* at a *discount*, but it is often possible to find an even better buy in a system made up by a dealer and offered at substan*tially* less than the list price.

The big names of the hi-fi world continue to update their product ranges with increasing frequency; at times it is hard to keep up with what is going on in the big Japanese companies, who seem to produce a new selection every year. This, of course, would not be economically worthwhile if they depended on U.K. or European sales alone, but it is the vast American market that determines their policy, a market which also dictates the design and facilities of much Japanese equipment. But, to many British buyers, the fact that the better Japanese makes are generally less likely to go wrong is likely to outweigh the fact that facilities are less suitable to the British taste.

The companies of the Thorn group, Philips and the various Rank names are among those who are actively meeting the foreign challenge. Of the Rank concerns, Leak, in particular, is producing new equipment at a rate that would surely horrify the firm's founder.

It is a further indication of the current mood of confidence in the industry that new brand names are constantly springing up. Some are the products of new firms and in other cases a British firm markets goods produced overseas. Pyser-Britex, U.K. distributors of the up-market Marantz range, are now marketing a selection of Teledyne budget range equipment, which is made in Korea; Soundesign equipment is being promoted by Laitex of Manchester; Plustronics is a new company selling budget equipment by Nippon Columbia and Orion of Japan; further up the market Wilmex are finding that the French-made Era belt-driven turntable is a popular alternative to Thorens/Garrard, etc.; and Noble Ventures are introducing Hirtel and Studio amplifiers and the A. P. Selmin range of speakers, all designed and made in Italy.

Among British manufacturers several have joined in at the expensive end of the market over the past couple of years. Among the newer names are Gabraphone, Harrison and Lustraphone, all producing high-specification goods.

Firms such as these join a highly respected group of specialist manufacturers—Quad, IMF, Transcriptors, Spendor, Rogers, Bowers and Wilkins, Cambridge Audio, Lecson, etc. Together with the foreign makers of expensive equipment —Revox, Thorens, Marantz, JBL, Sonab, Bang and Olufsen, Acoustic Research and others —they wait with open arms for the buyer (and there are thousands) who begins with a £100 system and ends up a few years later with one costing £500 or more. And this is for stereo only. With quadraphonic sales hardly off the ground and various video systems round the corner no wonder the industry is confident of its future.

The majors gild their image

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

Although there seems little reason to think that hi-fi will live up to the expectations of the dreamers, who see it as the successor of colour television and the salvation of the domestic electronics industry, there is no doubt that rapid growth is here to stay. The indications are that this year unit audio sales by the main body of the industry will be around 60 per cent. up on last year—a growth record which compares with the 70 per cent. increase in colour TV disposals.

This is not to knock the hi-fi business. After all, we are dealing in heavy statistics. Any industry which can see its consumer off-take rise by nearly two thirds *is* indeed one to be envied.

Question mark

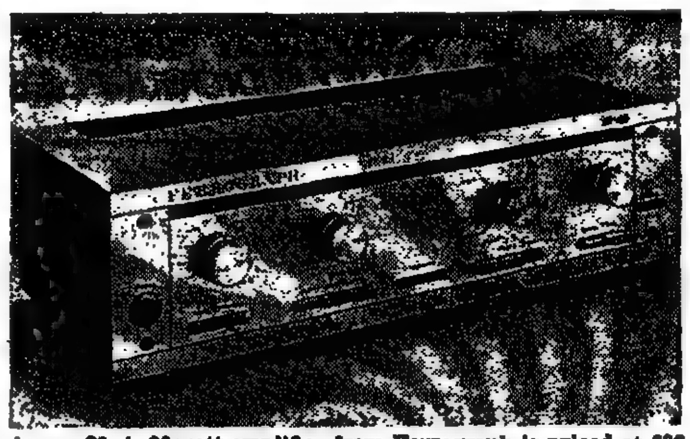
The big question mark, of course, is what will happen to the business if there is to be a squeeze in earnest. The answer to that one lies in fathoming the degree to which the buying of hi-fi is "discretionary" purchasing, akin to the acquisition of a fur coat, diamond ring, or regular purchasing, bearing a greater similarity to the buying of a new refrigerator. If you place hi-fi in the discretionary sector you might come to the conclusion that an element of sluggishness might now be expected to enter the *picture*.

However, such a jaundiced attitude is certainly not the one which has been taken over the past few years by the majors of the business. Until the late 1960s the hi-fi market—as opposed to the stereo business —was very much in the hands of the specialist and the Japanese. The esoteric world of Tottenham Court Road was one which was only understood by a few and the brand names of Quad, Leak, Sansui, Akai, and even Bang and Olufsen, were not ones which would immediately strike a chord in the heart of the average housewife.

The growing attractions of hi-fi as a business has led to a situation in which the major groups—Thorn, Philips/Pye, and Rank—have moved into the market place in force. Either via acquisition, introduction, or forceful marketing of existing activities, there is little doubt that these companies have achieved domination of the hi-fi business in a relatively short time. Thus the structure of the industry has changed dramatically, leaving the names of old as healthy as ever (sometimes now parts of the bigger groups), but with the bulk of the business being done by the major groups.

Of course, as has been mentioned elsewhere in this survey, one does run into the problem of defining hi-fi. The sooner a British Standard is produced the better for everyone (except perhaps those who are putting out noise machines rather than hi-fi equipment). For the *moment there are only two* guides, one is the Continental Din standard and the other price. Hi-fi at less than £80-£100

Continued on next Page



A new 20 + 20-watt amplifier from Ferrograph is priced at £86. The company has also recently introduced a 60 + 60-watt amplifier and matching tuner (£148 and £105).

Few holds barred in the discount war . . .

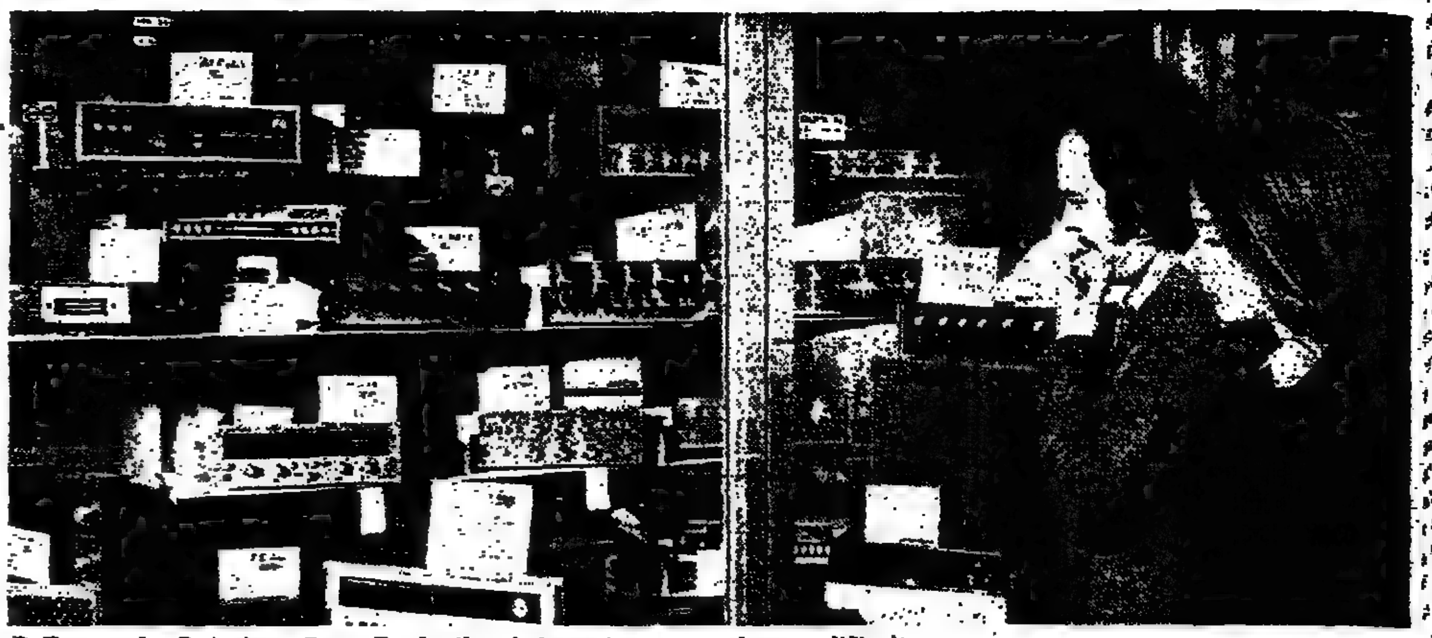
BY COLIN INMAN

In the eight years since the abolition of resale price maintenance the pattern of trading in audio (and other) goods has undergone a total change. The rise of the discounter and the mail order house has not only taken away a great deal of business from the traditional High St. dealer but has also forced him to adapt his own methods of trading. Several of those unwilling to make the change have gone out of business, and the discounters have mushroomed in line with the industry's startling growth over the past few years.

The mark-ups on hi-fi equipment which is sold at full price can be very high (even artificially high), of the order of 50 per cent. in some cases: so it is not surprising that discounts of around 40 per cent. can be found, and that even the High St. dealer may be able to afford to give a reasonable reduction on most equipment. As an example, the trade price of an Onkyo 733 amplifier is roughly £106 (if bought in a batch of six): the recommended retail price is about £176: and one discount house quoted a cash price of £140 (all prices including VAT). Others may sell at a lower figure.

The dealer is thus prepared to accept a much reduced profit for the benefit of being able to achieve a higher turnover rate and of not having to be bothered with visiting the customer's house to install the equipment, or having to give up time to demonstrate it. And it is a prodigal customer that can afford to ignore the possibility of saving over £30, particularly since all equipment is subject to guarantee, and since in any case the dealer, whether discount house or High St. trader, is, under the current Sale of Goods Act, responsible for the fitness of the goods for their intended purpose. Under present law it is the dealer who must remedy any faults without incurring any expense to the buyer—in other words you cannot be fobbed off with a "manufacturer's guarantee only" clause.

In fact, the best discounters have their own service facilities. Comet, the largest discount house, has some 25 service departments throughout the country and employs over 50 people on servicing alone. A year's guarantee is given on parts and labour.



Bafflement in Tottenham Court Road: the choice gets more and more difficult.

The new Rank Domus series consists of three belt-driven integrated turntables, which include arm, cartridge and teak plinth, and are priced from £64.50 to £99.90, and five loudspeakers, which cost from £39.90 to £150.90 per pair.

Few problems

What the discounters do not do, of course, is set the equipment up and attend to any faults in your home. So if you are liable to plug the loudspeaker leads into the mains socket, forget about discounts and visit your friendly neighbourhood dealer. In fact, setting up a system made by one manufacturer should present few problems, since it will be obvious which plugs go where: the same applies to systems made up by a dealer (Comet advertisements list over 50 of these), which are usually supplied with the correct plugs and leads. It is only with systems when different items have been bought separately that problems may arise: and the more expensive the equipment (particularly pick-up arms and turntables), the more care is needed in setting up and the more there is to go wrong.

The other major disadvantage of buying from a discount house is that, at best, only a limited number of items are on demonstration. This does mean, of course, that you are unlikely to be sold an amplifier that has been demonstrated for several weeks and has had a succession of grubby fingers trying to pull its knobs off; and in the case of electronic apparatus (amplifiers, tuners) it is difficult actually to hear any great differences in sound quality, so that provided you are confident of the equipment's main parameters (output power, distortion, etc.) you can buy "unheard" with reasonable confidence. But pick-up cartridges and loudspeakers do determine to a large extent the type of sound you will end up with, and it is obviously useful to hear these in your own listening room (rather than the dealer's showroom) before buying. Loudspeakers, in particular, are a very personal choice.

For the buyer for whom these considerations are of paramount importance, a new service called Audio Advisers, set up earlier this year by George Elliott, Stanley Kelly and Harold Percivall, is likely to prove popular. For a fee of £50 the firm undertakes the complete planning of a system, makes audio measurements in the listening room, tests the hearing of the prospective listeners, tests, installs suitable equipment and ensures that it is working properly. The fee reduces by £5 for every £100 spent, so for a system costing £400, you would pay £30 as well as buying the equipment at full price. In normal circumstances (i.e., unless any "building in" was required) leads and plugs are included in the price. This sort of service may well find favour among those who are prepared to pay for goods that operate to their optimum standard of performance—and this is often not the case.

A few manufacturers still prefer their products not to appear on the discounters' lists, and it is rare to find Quad, Trio, Sony, or Bang and Olufsen, for instance, at other than full price. Other names could be added to the list: one small firm which manufactures a specialist product (a television sound monitor) feels it can only be satisfactorily serviced by the maker. The firm therefore relieves the dealer of responsibility for faults and allows him a discount of 20 per cent. The company refuses to sell to wholesalers or discount merchants and finds that the public are very happy to receive efficient (and swift) service direct from the manufacturer and that the dealer is happy with his (genuine) discount.

One final point: of the 50 or so discounters' advertisements in the current issue of Hi-Fi News, about two-thirds include VAT in their prices, the other third do not. A simple soul might be forgiven for thinking that those who don't include VAT are trying to make their prices seem lower than those of their competitors. But maybe they have a better explanation . . .

. . . and the tape v. disc battle rages on

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

"We wondered when it would happen, and suddenly it has." The man from Philips is obviously a little biased in declaring the past 18 months as being the period of breakthrough for tape in general and the cassette in particular. But there are certainly signs that the tape market has suddenly moved into the big league. This year—and the prime season has yet to be with us—cassette sales may be around one-third of full price LP sales, a sign of real maturity in a market which was for a long time regarded with scorn.

The tape v record battle is one which has raged for a long time with sub-arguments over cassettes, cartridges and reel-to-reel going on in the wings. The main arguments in favour of records have been cost, production, convenience, and sound fidelity. In favour of the cassette has been storage safety, playback simplicity and portability. But the big problem for the cassette has been the massive, and remaining, public investment in record reproduction equipment. However, hundreds of thousands of cassette players have been sold in Britain this year and the demand for software for these units is rising rapidly.

However, tape enthusiasts still face a basic difficulty in campaigning for their favourite sound vehicle. Tape replay equipment is considerably more expensive than the equivalent record players. A reasonable cassette deck to-day will not cost very much less than £70. In order to match good record production it will have to be "Dolbyised" (which eliminates much of that nasty tape hiss), but it will have the added advantage that you can make your own stereo recordings.

Getting material to play back on the equipment is not the easiest of tasks. Some, but not all, pre-recorded tape producers issue Dolbyised tapes, and the quality of reproduction on some pre-recorded cassettes is variable to say the least. So far no one has seen fit to go in for really high quality pre-recorded tapes. At the recent London Audio Fair BASF demonstrated, to use its own words, "near perfection in cassette recording by using chrome dioxide tape, stereophony and the Dolby B system." It also added that such pre-recorded tapes are not available in the U.K.

This, however, must surely be only a matter of time, since the march of the cassette now seems unstoppable. The only rival other than the record is the cartridge, the eight-track stereo system used heavily in the U.S. Eight track has substantial advantages over cassettes in certain areas and it has so far proved noticeably superior for in-car entertainment but, rightly or wrongly, it is not generally taken seriously in hi-fi discussions.

Reel-to-reel

All this is not to say that reel-to-reel tape recording is dead. What has happened is that this field of the market is now increasingly left to the enthusiasts buying the highly sophisticated products of such brand names as Revox, Teac and Akai. The bread and butter—albeit pricey bread and butter at times—is back with the packaged tapes.

For a long time the record industry was rather nervous of cassette growth. An American trade magazine recently discussed cassette development under the headline: "The blank cassette . . . Pot of Gold or Pandora's box." There are two basic worries about cassettes. The first is that by buying recorders and blank tapes the consumers will record their own entertainment from the radio and not bother with the pre-recorded product. The other is that cassette manufacturing ability has not always kept pace with demand, with the result that tape breakdowns can cause irritation. Certainly, some prime names are now majoring their sales campaigns on the reliability of their tapes, reflecting the discovery of real consumer concern.

However, the indications are that in spite of the ability to record either off-air from the radio or from a friend's record player, the cassette player owner tends to buy pre-recorded tapes. If this trend continues the producers of pre-recorded music could well have a massive new market in the sale of material for portable players opened to them.

But such playback machines are, of course, a long way from hi-fi. Their attraction is that by having a domestic hi-fi system based on cassettes the user can also transport his music to car or caravan.

For the moment the decision between a tape system and one based on records is a difficult one. Supposing that you do not decide to venture into both, and there are several units which handle both tape and records, the weighing of the pros and cons is full of problems. If you can run to the best in tape playing equipment and, if you are, like me, the sort of person who ill-treats records, cassettes may be the thing. However, you will be in for some disappointments over tape quality and the fact that even now some record shops do not always carry a comprehensive cassette range. If you want good reproduction at a lower price, are careful with records, want the flexibility that cassettes cannot offer (ever tried to find a particular part of a pre-recorded tape?) and want instant access to a wide product range it must be records. One added asset of tape is, of course, that you can record the radio play, or the commentary on the big fight, with your speakers turned off. Many is the recording I have made while entertaining to dinner.

Fortunately, for the moment, neither decision can be terribly wrong since both tape and record are likely to be with us for a very long time. And the battle should make interesting reading for a few more years to come.

Continued from previous page

The majors

should be tested carefully before purchase.

But there is a wide range of products in the upper price bracket being made by the majors. Thorn has grown sufficiently interested in the business to open a new factory for hi-fi production and has made hi-fi a major arm of a general marketing push into Europe this year. Philips has been busily trying to up-market its image, resentfully talking about having a "mid-to-low image for mid-to-high products." Rank Bush Murphy moved early in the game. Recent experience with Arena and Wharfedale has not been entirely happy but the aggressive entry into the market with these brand names and Leak continued and is probably producing a more satisfactory reward at the moment.

Part of the problem of the business for the majors has been created by their own slowness in moving into it. The name for quality sound tended to go to the Grundigs, Bang and Olufsens, Sonys and Trios of the world, companies which moved into the business quickly. This left the British majors in a situation where there was a need for a measure of re-establishing a brand image in the area of true stereo. For a time companies indulged in some relatively expensive glossy advertising.

In terms of distribution this has certainly all paid off. High Street outlets are now nicely stocked with U.K. products, and the public mind has been turned once more to British brand names for its sound, to some degree at least.

The majors have also capitalised on a trend which was predictable and is now with us to a considerable degree. The traditional hi-fi market, and still the hard core of the business, is made up of enthusiasts who mix and match their equipment. These true followers of the world of wow and flutter may have as many as half-a-dozen different brand names on their systems. It is from this origin of separate decks, amplifiers, tuners and speakers that the idea of "unit audio" started.

Clearly this fragmentation of the business could not survive the real invasion of the high street. Once sales started to bite down into the marketing pyramid it became clear that although lip service was still to be paid to the "unit" concept, the total product range linked by a unified design concept was the real way to the consumer's heart. Even the State-owned Scandinavian quality speaker maker Sonab has lately turned to producing the whole range of audio products. When "Mr. Average" makes his hi-fi buy he wants none of the hassle of purchasing piece by piece and prefers to buy a total package, with a familiar brand name, and from a familiar source.

This fact has been a great help to the majors in their invasion of the market, and there are symptoms of a reaction from some of the traditional market suppliers in the form of corporate image campaigns by some of the Continental and Japanese manufacturers.

So what happens next? Probably the gap between the High Street and Tottenham Court Road, mecca of hi-fi, will open more widely. A few companies may straddle both, but these are likely to be limited to a handful of Japanese, German and Scandinavian makers who have the financial muscle and marketing expertise to embark upon such an exercise. For the rest the real key lies in the future of the British economy. With interest rates at their present levels and the prospects of a cold winter in many senses of the word it may well be that a note of caution will enter the hi-fi business. But then, even a mini-boom is better than none.

HI-FI III

Buying with care

BY COLIN INMAN

i-fi is an expensive hobby; ed to produce a top quality em most experts would end with equipment costing nd £500, although the ority of those who write to hi-fi Press about their probs seem to have about £150 pend.

ut it is easy to make an exsive mistake when choosing n the literally millions of binations on offer. Gone are days when in any price ge there might be only two three suitable items: to-day can find over a dozen pickcartridges costing around each; and there are over 200 lic and private companies ng equipment on the U.K. ket.

here are several ways of cing sure that what you buy what you really want. It is iously useful to gain a work knowledge of the subject, a number of books as well he hi-fi Press will help; there audio fairs and shows held oughout the country; there dealers, many of whom have d advice to offer; and listen to neighbour's set-up or ing to a knowledgeable iteur can be helpful.

Only journal

s any customer of station kstalls will know the hi-fi ss has mushroomed over the t few years. Six years ago *Fi News* published by Link ise was the only journal ling solely with hi-fi hough the record magazines and still have hi-fi sections). 1967 it was joined by *Hi-Fi nd* (Haymarket Press), in 1 by *Popular Hi-Fi* (Hayket) and in 1972 by *Audio* C), *Hi-Fi Answers* (also from market) and *Hi-Fi for sure* (Blakeham Producs).

his autumn the magazines e been fatter than ever re, with *Hi-Fi News* breakthe 300 page per issue rier, a reflection of the istry's prosperity. As a lt the magazines' editors are sionally hard pressed to find ugh to write about: only a ted number of journalists e regularly on the subject, and testing equipment for reviews is a time-consuming and costly business—test equipment is particularly expensive. Eventually, no doubt, more laboratories will cater for this sort of work and eventually the magazines will test a representative selection of what is available rather than having to limit themselves to equipment submitted by the manufacturer. Transcriptors turntables, for instance, are widely respected and yet they have never been reviewed simply because the company has not sent them in. However, the reviews that do appear are generally models of objectivity and must be a determining factor in many people's choice.

Useful source

The advertisements, too, are a useful source of information, and they are in great abundance at present—the November issue of Hi-Fi Sound contained some 200 advertisement pages out of a total of 242. But one must tread carefully. Ads. of the "top quality hi-fi . . . for only £49" sort still abound.

The letters' columns in the magazines are worth studying, particularly since they often cite instances of good (naming names) or bad (not naming names) service. And the question and answer columns are obviously proving a boon to many lost souls, so much so that several of the magazines have had to impose a charge for personal replies (usually 50p or £1). *Popular Hi-Fi* employs a staff of three to answer readers' questions, and they reckon to deal with up to 200 queries a week.

There are a few useful books on hi-fi, among them "Hi-fi in the home" by John Crabbe (editor of *Hi-Fi News*) and "Living with hi-fi" by John Borwick, who edits *The Gramophone's* audio pages. There is also a series of booklets by Clement Brown on specific aspects of the subject, including a handy one on setting up equipment in the home.

Also of interest to a potential buyer are occasional articles such as that in the November issue of *Homes and Gardens*, in which Christine Coleman asked a number of people involved in the world of hi-fi to select a basic system. (Most selected equipment costing about £400.)

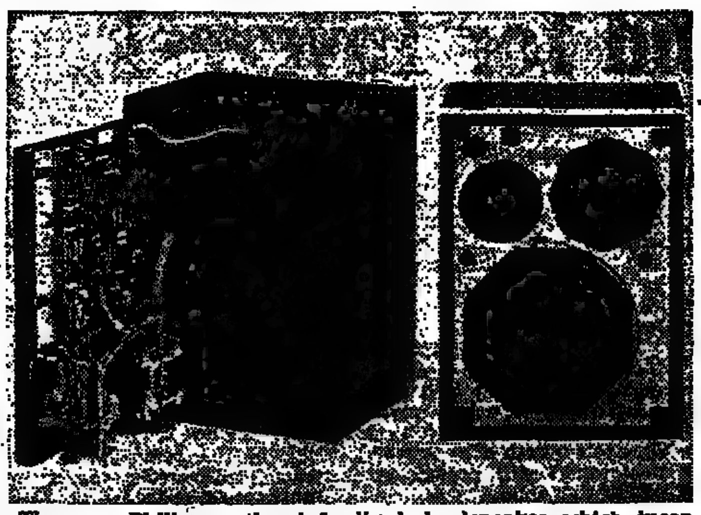
Audio fairs are becoming increasingly popular, to judge from the growing numbers who find their way to Olympia each October, and they provide the *opportunity* to make an instant comparison of most of the equipment currently available, to collect huge quantities of descriptive leaflets and occasionally to meet the manufacturer *himself. But* listening conditions (even supposing you have the patience to queue up to listen in the first place) are far from ideal. Some of the smaller hi-fi shows in the provinces are often *better; these are usually held* in hotels—and although the rooms may be small, the furnishings, etc., are nearer to those of the average living room.

Most dealers' demonstration *rooms are small, too, and this* gives the less scrupulous operator the chance to make an underpowered system sound better than it really is. A dealer's room is often only say 8 *feet* by 10 *feet* by 10 *feet*—800 cubic feet; a modern living room can be several times this figure. Ten watts per channel may be enough for the one, but perhaps 40 watts will be needed for the other.

Worth cultivating

There are, of course, dealers and dealers. A good one is worth cultivating, if only for the security of knowing that he is recommending Brand X because it is reliable and well made rather than because it offers him the biggest profit. And a good dealer will have valuable advice to offer on the all-important question of matching—what equipment goes well with what. This is one problem that above all others seems to baffle the buyer—*Hi-Fi Answers* contains dozens of queries of this type every month.

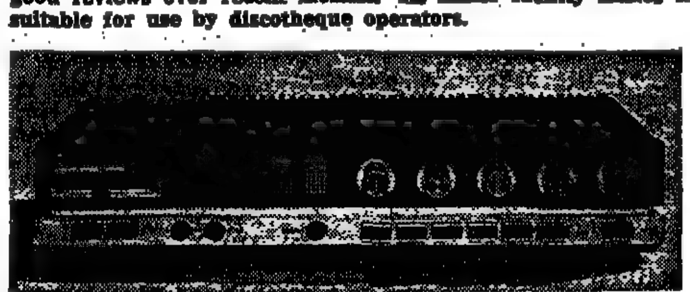
It is not easy to acquire a balanced view of what is on offer, and it is made more difficult for the buyer to make price comparisons when only about two thirds of discount houses include VAT in their published prices. But the rewards of a good system working at its best are well worth putting in a bit of time and effort to achieve.



The new Philips motional feedback loudspeaker which incorporates its own power amplifiers and uses a "feedback loop" to give a flatter frequency response. Price is £125 each.

The new Goldring/Lenco ST8000 stereo system has a 40 + 40-watt output, FM stereo tuner and GL78 turntable with G800E cartridge. It costs £236.

The Scan-Dyna 2400 tuner-amplifier (£150) has earned some good reviews over recent months. Its mixer facility makes it suitable for use by discotheque operators.



The Harrison S200, named after its designer, Mike Harrison, is a 50 + 50-watt integrated unit with an impressive specification. Distributed by Gimar Ltd., it retails at about £186.

DIY gains popularity

At a time when "do-it-yourself" is providing one solution to the problem of rising costs, it is not surprising that growing numbers of enthusiasts are showing an interest in building their own hi-fi. Financial savings are undoubtedly possible although they are unlikely to be very large, and the main satisfaction is bound to lie in producing equipment which works as well as (or sometimes better than) the equivalent shop-bought article and in being able to say "I made it myself."

There are kits on the market which are suitable only for those with experience and others that are intended for the complete novice. The simplest require little more than the use of a screwdriver and spanner. Among the easiest are the Mullard Unilex systems, low-priced equipment, which is easy to put together and requires no soldering. It is suitable for the beginner or, perhaps, for a father to build for his children to discourage them from tampering with his own set-up.

Also easy to build is the Connoisseur BD1 turntable kit, which can be obtained for a little over £10 and which, when combined with a suitable arm and cartridge, can provide quality comparable with that from much more expensive units.

But undoubtedly the most popular item for the home constructor, no doubt because of the absence of fiddly wiring, is the loudspeaker. Here you can either make up a complete kit, such as those from the Heathkit range, which consist of a cabinet already constructed so that the speaker units only have to be mounted within the enclosure and the back screwed on; or you can choose from a wide variety of kits which supply the drive *units plus crossovers and, in some cases, grille* cloth, terminal board, wadding, etc., but which leave you to buy the wood, generally chipboard these days, yourself. Among such kits are those made by Richard Allen (Twin, Triple, Super Triple and Triple Eight); Goodmans (DIN 20 at under £20); Jordan Watts (a "module" retailing at around £13 and suitable for use singly or in pairs in a variety of enclosures); Eagle (a range of six projects); Heathkit (with or without cabinet); Peerless (seven kits from less than £20 to over £40, cabinet kits for which are made by P. F. and A. R. Helme); Wharfedale (Linton 2, Glendale 3 and Dovedale 3 kits, r.r.p. £23, £42.50 and £65 per pair); and KEF (whose Kefkit 2 and Kefkit 3 have been among the most popular of such units over the past few years, not least because the finished products correspond to the well known Celeste and Concerto models).

As an alternative to these standard models, it is possible to be even more ambitious by building one of the designs that appear from time to time in the hi-fi Press. However, the description of the amount of work involved in some of the larger speakers is likely to deter many people from even starting. To take just one example, the August and November 1973 issues of *Hi-Fi Answers* describe the construction of a transmission line speaker designed by C. J. Rogers. The description of the speaker's construction takes up some six pages and there is a list of "ingredients" some 30 items long, including *wood, screws, glue, grille fabric, draught* excluder, wadding, and of course, the drive units and crossover components. It is not a job for those who reckon to build a speaker in a couple of evenings.

However, for the enthusiast who prefers tweezers and soldering iron to hammer and nails there are plenty of electronic kits available. The most suitable for the beginner are those made by Heathkit, whose range covers a wide field including baby alarms, stereo compacts, high-performance receivers and advanced test gear. Full and clear instructions are given with every item and the firm runs an efficient troubleshooting service.

Among other kits on offer, those by Sinclair, which generally involve the linking of a number of separate "modules," have become popular over recent years. The company has just produced a new series, the Project 80, which, to say the least, is a novel design visually.

Finally, for the man who really knows what he is doing, the hi-fi Press, as with loudspeakers, publishes occasional designs for *amplifiers and (less often) tuners. One such* recent model was the amplifier designed by and named after J. L. Linsley-Hood, who described its construction in *Hi-Fi News* from November 1972 to February 1973. Powertran Electronics offer complete kits of parts and a circuit diagram for about £57. In this case the financial saving is genuine. The amplifier would cost well over £100 if it were generally available, which it isn't.

C.I.

The Wharfedale Glendale loudspeaker kit, a three-unit system costing £42.50 per pair.

Monopolies reference ends L & C bid for Inveresk

BY NICHOLAS OWEN

LONDON AND County Securities yesterday dropped its £7.8m. offer for Inveresk Group, the paper manufacturer, following Tuesday's reference of the bid to the Monopolies Commission.

L and C, which has its principal interests in banking and finance, said the conditions of its offer cannot now be fulfilled and so it would be allowed to lapse.

There had been suggestions the group would press on and argue its case before the Commission, but this was firmly denied by Mr. Wolf Perry, an L and C director, last night.

The decision to refer the bid was seen as indicating the Government's concern at the future of the asset- and cash-rich Inveresk business, which has managed a sharp recovery in its paper-making interests recently.

The Commission was given three months to make its inquiry. Mr. Perry said that his company could not be sure that the circumstances which made its 60p-a-share cash offer worthwhile now would still prevail at the end of that time.

He said L and C had been impressed with Inveresk's claim earlier this week that it was heading for quadrupled profits and a trebled dividend this year. Backing up its rejection of L and C's terms, Inveresk put its net asset value per share at 90p.

L and C now holds about 20 per cent. of Inveresk, Mr. Perry said that Inveresk's defence document underlined how profitable this, the biggest single holding in the company, could become. Inveresk shares were unchanged yesterday at 56p.

European banks press their case over San Diego collapse

BY MICHAEL BLANDEN

EUROPEAN BANKS faced with substantial losses as a result of the collapse of the National Bank of San Diego are pressing hard for their case to be reconsidered by the U.S. authorities.

A senior representative of the National Westminster Bank, which has taken the lead in representations by the U.K. banks involved, is travelling to the U.S. this week-end.

A meeting is planned on Monday with the Crocker National Bank, which took over the banking liabilities of the San Diego Bank.

He will be armed with the results of inquiries which Nat. West. has carried out this week among the European banks involved in the $92m. of loans. These are regarded by the U.S. authorities as not made to the San Diego bank but through it to companies in the business empire of Mr. C. Arnholt Smith, the bank's major shareholder.

More than 80 per cent. of the foreign loans were regarded by the lending banks in Europe as made on an inter-bank basis. It is hoped to gain the support of the Crocker bank for the view that the loans should be treated as normal inter-bank lending.

British and European banks have made it clear that they feel strongly about the issue. They are concerned about the apparently arbitrary line drawn between the various liabilities of the San Diego banks. A large slice of loans, which they regarded as inter-bank, have been left with the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and outside the arrangement with Crocker. They are anxious about the effects on the international standing of the U.S. banking system. In the wake of the collapse many of the European banks have reviewed their commitments in the U.S.

Views, already expressed to the U.S. authorities in the meeting with the U.K. bank representatives in Washington on Friday last week, are reinforced by the information gained this week. They are likely to be put to Crocker in the hope of gaining that bank's co-operation in seeking an early settlement of the problem.

As soon as the results of the meetings are known, it is planned to call a further meeting in London of the U.K. and other banks concerned, which include Barclays International.

Mark again slams legal system

BY PAUL ELLMAN

SIR ROBERT MARK, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, last night again voiced criticisms of trial procedure for making it difficult to prove the guilt of defendants.

Speaking in Hove, Sussex, Sir Robert said he thought the police were coping reasonably well with crime as a whole, with some 40 per cent. of cases being cleared up.

"But our success in dealing with deliberate wrongdoers, robbers, burglars and so on is conditioned by our resources and by the difficulty in satisfying the Courts of the guilt of those we do catch."

Sir Robert said a robber in London stood a good chance of escaping arrest because the shortage of police manpower made planning the crime easier, and almost as good a chance of escaping conviction if caught because the rules of investigation and trial made proof difficult.

Sir Robert referred to the storm of protest which followed the criticisms he made on television of the jury system and unscrupulous lawyers.

"I felt obliged to present myself to-night, notwithstanding that some of you may feel I have said all that I should, and possibly more, on television last week."

A fresh look

He suggested that society was coming around to the need for a fresh look at the system of justice, to see if changes were needed due to the growing belief in the abandonment of punishment as a primary objective of the law.

Certainty of conviction is thought to be the severest deterrent to the professional criminal, offering hopes of a reduction in crime, less expenditure on police and prisons and "more constructive, humane and experimental" treatment for lawbreakers.

"Long experience has shown beyond doubt that all else has failed, but in this awakening belief, we, the police, no less than the society we serve, see real hope for the future."

Sir Robert came out against the idea of a national police force as it was likely to have no effect on the crime rate.

Such a force was also likely to be more open to doubt concerning its motives for prosecuting, he added.

More falls in tanker freight rates

By James McDonald, Shipping Correspondent

THE CUTBACKS in Arab oil supplies had a further depressing effect this week on the world tanker freight market. There was an increase in the volume of oil company "relets"—tankers unable to obtain employment and obtaining low rates in the market.

Within little over a month rates have dropped from about Worldscale 450 to Worldscale 250, according to the index produced by Mullion Tankers (Shipbroking). For some ships the drop in rates has been even more drastic, with a 150,000-tons Shell relet fixed from the Gulf to the West in early-December at Worldscale 80 and a 230,000-tons relet fixed at only Worldscale 70.

More important than the drop in freight rates over the past week to many tanker owners is the availability—or the lack of it—of bunker fuel. "Shipowners are, in many cases, seriously worried that, no matter what they are able to fix or what rate is obtainable, the fuel to take the vessel to a loading area and to perform the voyage may not be available," comments Lambert Brothers Shipbroking, one of London's leading tanker brokers.

"Owners are requesting, in many negotiations to-day, that charterers supply bunkers for the voyage in question or during the currency of any time-charter business. Charterers are solidly resisting any such move as they are not really in a better position to arrange supplies."

Nominal levels

Freight rates ended this week at nominal levels—about Worldscale 125 from the Gulf to the U.K. or Continent for 60,000 to 70,000-ton vessels, and at about Worldscale 300 (again nominal) from the Mediterranean to U.K. or Continent for 25,000-ton tankers.

Another major tanker broker, John I. Jacobs, points out that with both an increase in the volume of oil company "relets" and a reduction in the number of definite "openings" there has been a substantial fall in Gulf freight rate levels, which has also been reflected in other areas.

Commenting on the single voyage "dirty" charter market, John I. Jacobs says: "With major companies in Japan, New York and London reletting vessels it has not been difficult for charterers to reduce freighting levels for their Gulf requirements. Latest VLCC ('Very Large Crude Carriers' of over 200,000 deadweight tons) fixtures from Persian Gulf to Europe are at around Worldscale 70.65—a drop of 15-20 points since the end of last week."

Restructuring at Rubery Owen

BY PETER CARTWRIGHT, MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

A MAJOR restructuring of Rubery Owen, the Darlaston-based group which, with 15,000 employees, is one of the largest family owned businesses, has been completed with the formation of a motor sub-group.

It retains the existing name of Rubery Owen, and comprises the various departments previously in the motor division. It will also incorporate the metal equipment division.

The sub-group is one of the largest suppliers to the automotive industry, and recently introduced a simple new safety wheel system to minimise the hazards of blow-outs.

The new company will be headed by Mr. David Owen, with Mr. John Owen as managing director. Mr. David Lanfear, formerly general manager of the motor division, has been appointed deputy managing director.

Other members of the Board include Mr. Geoffrey Tonks, commercial director; Mr Alan Parkes, supplies, Mr. Robert Houston, group finance, Mr. Jean Stanley, a main Board director, and Mr. Dennis Akehurst, company secretary.

Mr. Robert Male is divisional director of the metal equipment division. Other sub-groups cover fasteners, kitchen equipment and central heating, mechanical handling and Rubery Owen distributors.

Five shareholders were awkward, says judge

FIVE SHAREHOLDERS of H. R. Paul and Son, of Bute Street, Cardiff, decided to be awkward when the company technically found itself without any directors, a High Court judge said yesterday. The directors had no qualification shares.

When the company called an extra-ordinary general meeting to change its articles of association so that the existing directors could be confirmed in office, the five did not attend. Therefore there was no quorum.

The judge said the five had acted within their rights, but the effect was that, although they held a small minority of the shares of the company, they had decided to frustrate the will of the majority shareholder, British Dredging Company—and bring the lawful activities of the company to a halt.

"It is reasonably plain to me that their underlying purpose was to force the Paul company into liquidation, or to induce more generous terms of purchase," said Mr. Justice Brightman.

He directed the convening of a meeting of the company, and ruled that one member of the company, present in person or by proxy, should constitute a meeting.

No order was made as to cos

Option Report—3-month Call rates

OPTION DEALING DATES

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Nov. 6	Nov. 19	Feb. 7	Feb. 19
Nov. 20	Dec. 3	Feb. 21	Mar. 5
Dec. 4	Dec. 17	Mar. 7	Mar. 19

The Option market saw a marked increase in business yesterday with calls dealt in British Leyland, Bank and Commercial, Lonrho, General Electric, Williams Hudson, S. Osborn, A. A. Herbert, House of Fraser, G.R. Property Trust, Distillers, London and Overseas Freighters, Associated Leisure, Bridges, Dunlop, M. L. Meyer, Serck, Rio Tinto-Zinc, Orme Developments, Great Boulder, Shell Transport, Courtaulds, E. Scragg, Central Wagon, I.C.I. and J. Coral. Puts were done in Bejam, Thorn Electrical "A," Geo. Wimpey and London and County Securities while a double was arranged in A. Herbert.

Industrials		Glaxo	34	Slater Walker	12	Mines	
		Grand Met	6	Spillers	5	Anglo Amer	50
A.P.Cement	18	G.U.S."A"	12	Tesco	6	Broken Hill Prop	55
Assoc. Leisure	4	Guardian	29	Thorn 'A'	24	Cast	6
Barclays Bank	24	G.K.N.	15	Tube Invest	25	Charter Cons	14
Beecham	20	Hawker Sidd.	30	Unilever	25	Charterhall Fin	3
Boots Drug	17	I.C.I.	13	Utd Drapery	10	Cons. Gold	20
Bowaters	12	"Imps"	5½	Vickers	9	De Beers Def	"20
B.A.T	16	I.C.L.	10	Woolworths	6	F. S. Geduld	150
British Leyland	2½	Inveresk	6		–	Great Boulder	8
British Oxygen	6	Jessel Sec.	9	Property		Hampton Areas	18
Burton 'A'	15	Legal & General	20	Cap Counties	13	Hampton Prop	15
Cadbury's	6	Lloyds Bank	22	Land Securities	15	Kloof	75
Cannon St	7	"Lofs"	9	Peachey	13	Lonrho	9
Courtaulds	6	"Mams"	13	Star (Gt. Britain)	16	Loraine	22
Debenhams	9	Marks & Spencer	12	Town & City	13	Metals Explor.	10
Distillers	10	March (L)	11	Town & Comm.	13	Poseidon	75
Dunlop	7	Midland Bank	24			Pres Steyn	100
Eldridge Stead	5	Natl. West Bank	24	Oils		Rio T. Zinc	15
E.M.I.	12	P & O Dfd	25	Brit. Petroleum	52	Welcom	35
First National	7	Plessey	9	Burmah Oil	25	West Areas	25
G.R.A. Trust	8	R.H.M.	6	Oilsearch	5	Western M'ng	12
Gen. Accident	15	Rank Org. "A"	35	Shell	18	Zambia Copper	7
Gen. Electric	9	Reed Intl	25	Ultramar	16		

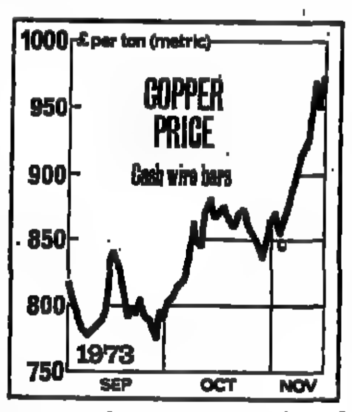
COMMODITIES/Review of the week

Zinc plummets on trading curb

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

ZINC PRICES plummeted on the London Metal Exchange yesterday with cash zinc falling to £630 a tonne, £80 down on the day and £119 below the peak of £739 reached in the market on Wednesday.

The downturn is directly attributable to the unprecedented action by the London Metal Exchange to ban any new buying of zinc for delivery before the end of December. Covering of previous sales—short positions—is still permitted and also buying of zinc for any dates after December. This ban on new buying for any delivery dates before the end of the year has helped to relieve the squeeze on nearby supplies that threatened to boost prices on the Exchange out of control.



However, buying for dates after December 31 is still permitted and the decline in the three months quotation was slowed down by President Nixon's statement on the oil embargo. The firm underlying tone of the zinc market was also helped by rumours that a rise in the European producers' price from its present level of £250 a tonne is almost certain to be agreed at the unofficial meeting of producers to be held early next week. It is believed that some producers want a rise of at least £100 in the producer quotation, while others would be content with a £50 increase.

Also at stake at the meeting is the whole European producer price system which could collapse if there is a basic disagreement among producers. Meanwhile it is understood that U.K. consumers are being hit by shortfalls in deliveries from the main U.K. supplier, Australian Mining and Smelting (Europe), the Rio Tinto Zinc group company who now operate the Avonmouth smelter.

Copper and tin prices reached new all-time peaks this week. The squeeze on supplies immediately available to the copper market was emphasised by a decline in the stocks held in the LME warehouse by over 8,000 tons to a total of under 25,000 tons and forecasts of a further substantial fall. This is attributed to shipments from Europe to relieve the acute scarcity in the U.S., where further production setbacks have hit expected deliveries.

The possibility of the oil shortage hitting demand, before production, was a restraining influence on prices, but President Nixon's statement yesterday helped lift the cash wirebars price by £21.5 to a new closing peak of £973.5, a tonne, £57.5 higher than a week ago.

There was further upsurge in tin prices, following the announcement by the International Tin Council that the operations of the buffer stock were being restricted—in other words it was no longer forced to sell although values were above the Tin Agreement's "ceiling" level.

An active week in the sugar market saw the London daily price reach an all-time peak of £111 on Wednesday. Though the LDP declined to £109 yesterday morning the continued strength of the market was indicated by new highs being achieved on the London terminal market.

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

	Latest price per ton unless stated	Ch'ge on week	Year ago	1973 High	1973 Low
Metals					
Aluminium (x)	£272.6	—	£250	£272.5	£230
Free Market c.i.f.	£565-75	+[illegible]	—	£565-75	£185.9
Antimony (99%s.s.)	£865	—	[illegible]	£865	£535
Free Market (99%)	£990-1020*	+70	—	£990-1020	£750-80
Copper					
Cash Wire Bars (x)	£973.5	+57.5	£425.75	£973.5	£446.5
3mths Do. Do. (x)	£888.5	+22	£434.25	£888.5	£458.75
Cash Cathodes (x)	£925	+9	£416.75	£940	£437.75
3 mths Do. (x)	£875.5	+23.5	£426.75	£875.5	£449.75
Copper Sulphate (x)	‡	—	£171	£188	£172
Gold per oz.	$90.5	—7.8	$60.37½	$127	$63.90
Lead Cash § ton (x)	£200.5	+6.375	£125.375	£233.5	£130
3 months § (x)	£202.25	+25.5	£126.125	£236.75	£132
Nickel (k) (x)	£1,413	—	£1,430.3	£1,467.26	£1,332
Free Market c.i.f. lb	$1.42-.52	—.002	—	$1.50-57	$1.34-.48
Platinum (b)(h) per oz	£66-68	—	£56½-63⅓	£66-68	£56½-66
Free Market per oz	£62½-65½	—2½	£56-60	£68-71	£50-642
Quicksilver Flask (76 lbs) q	£121-125	+3	‡	£136-9	£100.4
Silver per oz.	116.4p	—2.0	76.6p	122.26p	82.9p
3 months per oz.	119.7p	—1.9	78.2p	125.95p	85p
Tin Cash (x)	£2,307.5	+61	£1,592	£2,327.5	£1,593.6
3 months (x)	£2,310	+55	£1,592.5	£2,332.5	£1,614.5
Wolfram m ton Unit	£20.-521	+0.75	£14.2-16.1	£20.5-21	£15
Zinc Cash (x)	£630	+30	£160.875	£739	£150.825
3 months (x)	£570	+30.5	£164.375	£619.5	£153.375
Producers (x)	£250	—	£160	£250	£173
Grains					
Barley French	£54.75	+2.75	‡	£54.75	£46
Home Futures	£49.70	+1.4	£29.15	£52.46	£31.55
Maize No. 3 Yellow (American)	£56.25	+4.0	£30.15	£69.75	£26.75
S.A. Yellow Flint	‡	—	£34.25	‡	‡
Wheat					
No. 1 Red Spring	‡	—	[illegible]	£88	£43.85
Am. No. 2 Hard Winter	‡	—	£43.0	£55	£32.90
Australian	‡	—	£42.50	£51.15	£44-50
Eng. Mill'g new crop	£60	+0.75	£35½-4	£65	£36-6½

	Latest price per ton unless stated	Ch'ge on week	Year ago	1973 High	1973 Low
Spices					
Cloves (g)	£1,750	—	£1,620	£1,750	£1,620
Pepper, White (g)	[illegible]	—45.0	£565	£1,000	£545
Black (g)	£560	—	£380	£845	£370
Oils					
Coconut Malaysian	‡	—	‡	‡	‡
Groundnut 5% (x)	£234	—	‡	£258	£187
Linseed, Crude (x)	£400	—	£122	£502	£125.50
Palm Malayan (g)	£182	+12.0	£94	£233	£90
Soyabean Eur'p'n (f)	‡	—	$250	$318	$229
Seeds					
Copra (Philippines) (g)	$470	+20.0	$146½	$470	[illegible]
Groundnuts Nig (a)	‡	—	‡	£198	£198
Linseeds, can. No. 1 (g)	£194.9	+7.4	£76.75	£194.9	£81
Other Commodities					
Cocoa Shipment (u)	£576	—26	£310.5	£805	£301.6
F'ts 2nd pan	£501.25	—3.25	£312.25	£792.5	£302.25
Coffee Shipment (c)	60	—	46.00	50.00	46.00
Future 2nd position	£474	+3.5	£415.75	£474	£400.50
Cotton "A" Index cif Liverpool cts./lb	78.7	—0.95	36.75*	*88.2	38.50
Des Coconut (x)	£305	+5	[illegible]	£310	£165
Jute LJABW Cgr'de	£150	—	£144	£150	£144
Rubber Kilo	37.5p	—	17.65p	42.0p	19.15p
Sago Pearl (k)	‡	—	£81	£115	£81
Sisal E.A. No. 1 (x)	£285	+10.0	£117	£285	£153
No. 3 L. (x)	£282	+12.0	£114	£282	£130
U.G. (x)	£275	+10.0	£112	£275	£148
Sugar (q)	£109	+1	£75.50	£111	£87
Sulphur (y)	$26	—36	$20/25	$26-36	$20.25
Tapioca No. 1 (g)	£113.5	—	£72*	£113.5	£75
Tea (quality) kilo	66p	—	*56p	80p	52p
(plain) kilo	35p	+1	29p	38p	29p
Wooltops 64s Warp.	255p kilo	+18	183p kilo	405p kilo	223p kilo

§ Official close. ‡ Unquoted. * Nominal. b U.K. and Commonwealth refined. c Uganda Robusta 10 unwashed f.o.b. Mombasa indicative price. g Madagascar. h Delivered. k Delivered U.K. f.o.b. Liverpool. q C.i.f. Continental port. f Ex tank Rotterdam. v Ex tank U.K. y 99.0 per cent. sulphur liquid, c. and f. North-West European port. u Medium. x Metric ton.

MARKET REPORTS

BASE METALS

ZINC—Retreated further on the London Metal Exchange, recent hysteria having been dampened down by the ban on all new buying orders until the end of December which was imposed on Thursday by the exchange committee. There were no Ring dealings in cash which dropped £80 on the day while freer offerings of nearby metal found buyers less eager than of late. Profit-taking and week-end book-squaring operations were reported and there was talk of a possible small increase, rather than a fall, in next Monday's warehouse stock figures. A further narrowing was seen in the backwardation and the turnover totalled a modest [illegible] tons.

ZINC	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Cash	650.75	—75	620-40	—[illegible]
3 months	589-90	—[illegible]	568-72	—30.5
S'ment	675	—85	—	
St. Louis	—		*20.25-2	

* Cents per lb. † On previous unofficial close. ‡ $M per picul.

Amalgamated Metal Group reported that cash was untraded in the rings. During the morning mid-December changed hands at £645, three months £590, 89. Kerb: Early Dec. £655, three months £589. Afternoon: Cash untraded, three months £570, 65, 60, 58, 55, 58, 59, 60, 65, 68. Kerb: Mid-Jan. £595, three months £575, 70, 75, 80, 82, 85, 88.

COPPER—Turned higher as profit-taking was outweighed by fresh buying which included orders from the Continent. Sentiment was also sustained by anticipations of a decline in the warehouse stocks figure while in the later dealings Comex responded to hopes of a partial lifting of the Arab embargo on oil exports to the U.S. Turnover 14,525 tons.

COPPER	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Wirebars				
Cash	[illegible]		972-5	+21.5
3 months	[illegible]	—.5	[illegible]	+4
Settlem't	967		—	
Cathodes				
Cash	[illegible]	—1	920-30	+6
3 months	875-6	[illegible]	875-6	+5.5
Settlem't	930		—	
U.S.Smr.	—		*60-60¼	

Morning: Cash wirebars £970, 67, 70, 65, 67, late-Nov. £965, 60, early Jan. £925. Three months £891, 90, 91, 92, 93, 92, 91, 90, 89. Cathodes: Cash £938 three months £875, 78, 77, 76. Kerb: Cash bars £965, three months £888, 89, 88. Cathodes all carries. Afternoon: Cash wirebars £970, mid-Feb. £886, three months £886, 85, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89. Cathodes: Cash untraded, mid-Dec. £920, three months £875, 76. Kerb: Mid-Nov. £975, late Nov. and early Dec. £970, mid-Dec. £950, three months £889, 90, 91, 92, 93, 91, 92. Cathodes untraded.

TIN—Prices reacted on profit-taking after the advance of the previous two days despite a further rise in Penang. Turnover 530 tons.

TIN	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Cash	2311-5	—25	2305-10	—20
3 months	2319-20	—19.5	2309-11	—22.5
S'ment	2315	—25	—	
Straits E.	‡780	+4½	—	
New York	—		*257.00	+2

Morning: Cash £2,315, 2,313, three months £2,335, 33, 30, 28, 25, 20, 21, 22, 20, 22 20. Kerb: Three months £2,318, 15, 13, 12, 10. Afternoon: Cash £2,310, 05, early Feb. £2,310. Three months £2,314, 15, 13, 05, 10, 06, 05, 10. Kerb: Three months £2,310.

LEAD—Eased in the shadow of zinc, but was looking steadier in the later kerb dealings. Turnover 2,830 tons.

LEAD	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Cash	202-3	+1.25	200-1	—3
3 months	204-5	—.25	202-.5	—3.5
S'ment	203	+.5	—	
N.Y. Spot	—		*16-16.5	

Morning: Cash untraded. Mid-Dec. £203, late Dec. £204.5, three months £205, 06, 05.5, 04.5. Kerb: Three months £203.5, 03, 02. Afternoon: Cash untraded. Three months £203, 03.5, 02. Kerb: Three months £202, 03.5.

SILVER

Silver was fixed 0.1p an ounce higher for spot delivery in the London bullion market at 116.4p. The three-months premium narrowed 0.3p, however, to 3.3p, the six-month 0.3p to 8.9p, and the 12-month 0.5p to 12.7p. U.S. cent. equivalents of the fixing prices were: Spot 277.8c, down 0.4c; three-month 283.0c, down 0.8c; six-month 286.7c, down 0.9c; and 12-month 292.8c, down 1.2c. Conditions were quiet, and the spot price ended in London at 116-117p (276.75-278.75c), though dealings in New York shortly after the London close showed a firmer tendency.

SILVER (per troy oz.)	Bullion fixing prices	+ or —	LME close	+ or —
Spot	116.4p.	+0.1	116.55p	—1.1
3 months	119.7p.	—0.2	119.75p	—1.0
6 months	125.5p.	—0.2	—	
7 months	—		124.2p	—0.8
12 months	129.1p.	—0.4	—	

LME—Turnover 149 (98) lots of 10,000 ozs. Morning: Three months 120.2, 20.4, 20.3, 119.8, 9.9. Kerbs: Three months 120. Afternoon: Early Feb. 119; three months 119.4, 9.3, 9.2, 9.1, 9.3, 9.2, 9.2, 9.7, 9.8. Kerbs: Three months 119.8.

COCOA

Prices closed near the highs of the day, with week-end shortcovering, while near-December continued to lose ground, reports Gill and Duffus.

COCOA	Yesterday's Close	+ or —	Business Done
No4 Contract			
Dec. 1973	532.5-3.0	+5	535.0-30.0
March	501.0-1.5	+12	502.0-93.0
May	[illegible]	+10	488.0-81.0
July	[illegible]	+6.5	483.5-76.0
September	479.5-80.0	+9.5	479.5-74.0
December	464.5-5.0	+9	465.0-58.5
March	460.0-0.5	+8	461.5-55.0

Sales: 2,272 (2,410) lots of 10 tons. International Cocoa Agreement prices: Daily 50.56 (53.58) U.S. cents a pound; indicator 15-day average 54.38 (54.76); 22-day average 56.54 (55.86).

COFFEE

The market was moderately active. Latest published ICO indicator prices U.S. cents per pound: Colombian Mild Arabicas 70.50. Other Mild Arabicas 63.25. Unwashed Arabicas Santos Fours 74.50. Robustas 53.07. Daily average 64.80.

COFFEE	Yesterday's Close	+ or —	Business Done
	£ per L/ton		
November	457.5-60.0	+5.25	458.5-56.5
January	473.5 4.5	+4.25	474.5-72.0
March	487.0-7.5	+4	487.5-85.0
May	[illegible]	+4	498.5-96.0
July	504.0 4.5	+4.50	504.0-02.0
September	508.0-8.5	+3.50	508.0-07.0
November	512.0-2.5	+4	512.0-11.5

Sales: 605 (526) lots of 5 long tons.

ARABICA CONTRACT — (Buyer/seller business): Feb. 72.30-40, nil, nil; April 73.90-74.00, 73.90, 8; June 75.10-20, 75.10, 6; Aug. 76.20-30, 76.10, 5; Oct. 77.10-30, 77.00-76.90, 17; Dec. 77.60-80, nil, nil. Sales: 36.

RUBBER

EASIER opening, quiet throughout day. Closing on a steadier note. Lewis and Peat reported a Malaysian godown price of 185 cents a kilo (buyer, December).

Contracts	Previous Day's Business	12.45 p.m. Official prices	Closing buyers prices	Rise or fall
Malayan RSS 1. c.i.f. conf vessels, b.b.c. ports	p	p	p	p
December	—	34-5-35.0	[illegible]	—
January	—	34.5-35.9	34.90	—
Landed Spot	—	37.25* 38	37.50*	—0.50
December	38.5	37¼*-38¼*	37.50*	—0.50
January	38.5-38.9	37¼*-38¼*	37.80	—
February	—	37.75 38.5	38.0	—
Jan.-Mar.	38.5-38.65	37.75 38.5	38.0	—0.25
April-Jun	37.8-38.6	37.5-37.8	37.65	—0.15
July-Sept	37.6-37.95	36.5-36.9	36.75	—0.15
Oct.-Dec.	37.2	36.7-36.7	36.60	—0.05
Jan.-Mar.	37.2-37.35	36.2-36.6	36.45	—0.25
April-Jun	36.8-37.0	35.9-36.55	36.25	—0.25
July-Sept	36.2 36.6	35.7-36.00	35.90	—0.05
Oct.-Dec.	36.0-36.2	35.64-35.7	35.70	—0.05
Jan.-Mar.	36.2	35.2-35.5	35.50	—0.05

* Nominal.

Malayan thin crepe Dec. 42.1 (nom. seller). Sri Lanka thick crepe Dec. 47.0 (seller).

SUGAR

LONDON DAILY PRICE—Lower at £109 (£111) a ton c.i.f. Nov.-Dec. shipment. Buyers predominated in active conditions throughout the day, reports C. Czarnikow. First trades were up to 60 points above the overnight levels and despite the reduction in the London price, prices moved ahead steadily to show gains of up to 180 points by mid-afternoon. The market was then affected by New York quotations and prices fluctuated until the closing call when strong buying, mainly in March from one quarter, brought the day's highest levels, some 240 points over opening. It was the first notice day for the December contract and no notices were issued.

Sugar Pref. Comm Con.	Yesterday's Close	Previous Day's Close	Business Done
	£ per ton		
Dec.	115.50-116	112.50-113.50	114.00-2.75
Mar.	109.00-.10	106.60-.65	109.10 5.90
May	104.50 60	101.55-.60	104.50-1.88
Aug.	98 10-20	94.70-.75	98.30-5.25
Oct.	91 85 92.00	88.85-.90	91.60-88.20
Dec.	89 40-.70	86.60-.75	89.75-8.15
March	86 60-88.50	83.50-.90	86.50-3.60

Sales: 5,287 (3,007) lots of 50 tons each.

Tate and Lyle ex-refinery price for granulated in 1-cwt paper sacks was £101.90 (same) a long ton for home trade and £134.50 (£136.75) per tonne for export.

EEC DAILY IMPORT LEVIES for white and raw sugars, effective for Nov. 17: White sugar, denatured and non-denatured, 4.19, raw sugar, denatured and non-denatured 3.80 (3.42).

WOOL FUTURES

LONDON—The market was dull and featureless.

(Pence per kilo)

Dry-combed wooltops	Yest'day's Close	+ or —	Business Done
December	240.0-220.0	—1.5	—
March	227.0-4.0	+3.5	[illegible]
May	228.0-218.0	+5	—
July	218.8-205.0	+0.5	—
October	217.0-195.0	+0.5	—
December	216.0 198.0	+0.5	—
March	[illegible]	+0.5	226.0
May	210.0.180.0		—

Sales: (15) lots of 2,250 kilos each.

SYDNEY—The market opened on an irregular basis. Prices opened in the afternoon 2c to 14c up. Prices then fell throughout the session until a slight rise brought a close 3c to 17c up.

(Aust. cents per kilo)

Greasy wool	Yest'day's close	+ or —	Business Done
December	364.5-366.0	+10.75	366.0-60.0
March	351.0-354.0	+11.5	354.0-39.0
May	347.8-347.5	+16.25	347.0-30.0
July	345.0-346.0	+12	[illegible]
October	326.0-327.0	+6	328.0-18.0
December	325.0-324.8	+4	325.0-19.0
March	[illegible]	+5	318.0-15.0
May	315.0-320.0	+5	315.0-13.0

Sales: 859 (1,315) lots of 1,500 kilos each.

FREIGHTS

OIL TANKERS—Little activity with few charterers willing to accept some of the major oil company "relet" tonnage on the market. Italian charterers, however, accepted an Esso 40,000-tons relet, prompt loading from Persian Gulf to Mediterranean at Worldscale 140. Also, Petrol Export took a Japan Lines relet of 215,000-tons on November 28 from Persian Gulf to West at W.67½. Bunkering facilities, said brokers last night, were extremely "bad" with a number of suppliers unable to guarantee fuel.

DRY CARGO—Grain-shippers fixed a large cargo from Mississippi River to Holland at $15.50 f.i.o. for Nov. and paid $14 f.i.o. for cargo Northern Range-Germany Dec.

JUTE

DUNDEE—Quiet. Prices c. and f. U.K. for Dec.-Jan. shipment. BWB £157, BWC £148, BWD £138. Tossa: BTB £158, BTC £149, BTD £138. Calcutta goods easier. Quotations c. and f. U.K. for Nov. shipment. Ten oz. 40-inch £7.32, 7½ oz. £5.68 per 100 yards. Dec. £7.39 and £5.68, Jan.-March £7.38 and £5.68, B twills £17.57, £17.44 and £17.44 for the respective shipment periods. Yarns and cloths very firm.

GRAINS

THE BALTIC—Imported grain prices displayed small declines where changed. EEC wheat attracted scattered inquiry for prompt shipment to East Coast U.K. ports, while Belfast showed renewed interest in EEC barley. Business was slow to develop.

Wheat: EEC, denaturable quality Nov. and Dec. £67.00 seller.

Maize: No. 3 Yellow American, Nov. £56.25, Dec. £57.90 Jan. £58.00, transhipment, East Coast sellers.

Barley: EEC, Nov. £54.75 seller. Other grades unquoted.

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES MARKET (GAFTA)—Wheat, steady. Close: Nov. 58.10, Jan. 59.70, March 60.75, May 61.85, Sept. 53.70. Business: Nov. 58.70-58.25, Jan. 60.10-59.45, March 61.10-60.40, May 62.10-61.80, Sept. 53.70. Barley, steady. Close: Nov. 49.70, Jan. 51.40, March 52.65, May 53.55, Sept. 46.80. Business: Nov. 50.15-49.80, Jan. 51.90-51.25, March 53.00-52.45, May 53.90-53.45, Sept. 46.70-46.50.

HGCA—Location average ex-farm spot prices: Soft milling wheat—Berwick 61.00, Chelmsford 59.00. Feeding barley—Berwick 47.80, Chelmsford 48.08, Exeter 48.05.

EEC COMMISSION—The following levies and premiums effective for November 17 (in order—current levy plus December, January and February premiums, previous in brackets where changed). In units of account per metric ton: Soft wheat and mixed wheat and rye, all nil, Durum wheat, all nil, Rye, 9.37, rest nil (8.58, rest nil), Barley, 10.93, rest nil, Oats, all nil, Maize (other than hybrid for seeding) 2.50, rest nil. Buckwheat, all nil, Millet, 6.24, rest nil. Grain sorghum, 0.65, rest nil. Also effective for following flours: Wheat or mixed wheat and rye flour, nil, Rye flour, 31.06 (30.73).

MEAT/VEGETABLES

SMITHFIELD—No sales of fresh carcase meat.

MEAT COMMISSION—Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Nov. 16: U.K.—Cattle, £18.19 per live cwt (—0.07); sheep, 34.1p per lb edcw (+1.4); pigs, £3.54 per sc l.w. (+0.01). England and Wales—Cattle numbers up 4.8 per cent., average price £18.30 (—0.17); sheep numbers down 3.9, 34.2p (+1.5); pig numbers up 6.0, £3.54 (+0.01).

COVENT GARDEN (Prices in sterling)—Imported produce: Satsumas—Trays Spanish: approx. 22-lb 189 1.28, 168 1.20, 156 1.25, 136 1.30, 108/126 1.30-1.40. Oranges—Brazilian: Valencia Lates 2.70; Mozambique: 2.90; South African 72/88 2.95-3.00; Spanish: Navelinas 2.70 3.00. Lemons—Italian: 4.40-4.50; Cypriot. 4.20; Turkish: 3.20. Grapefruit—Jamaican: 35/40/50 1.90, 48/56 1.90; Cypriot: 72 2.20, 64 2.30, 56 2.40; Dominican: 27/32 2.00, 35 2.00, 40 2.00, 63 1.30; Jaffa: 40 3.30, 64 2.40, 75 2.10, 88 1.90, 56 2.50. Apples—French: Golden Delicious per 20-lb 72/84 1.60, Jumble pack 28-lb 2.10, Red Delicious 1.20-1.30 Granny Smith 72 2.40, 64 2.25-2.30; Italian: Rome Beauty 1.20. Pears—Per pound Italian: Williams 0.09, Passacrassane 0.06. Avocados—Israeli: 10/20 1.60-1.70. Melons—Spanish: Green 1.80-2.00. Grapes—Trays Spanish: Almeria 0.90-1.00, black 0.90. Tomatoes—Spanish: 1.30-1.90; Canary: 1.30-1.60. Onions—Spanish: 2.30.

English produce: Potatoes—Per 56-lb 0.65-0.85. Lettuce—Per 12, round, 0.90-1.00. Cabbages—Primo, nets 0.58. Mushrooms—Per pound 0.25. Cauliflowers—Per 12, 0.70-1.10. Beetroot—Per 28-lb 0.35. Carrots—Per 28-lb 0.20-0.40. Celery—Per box 20/25 Prepack 1.60, 12's ordinary 0.50-0.60. Apples—Per pound Bramley's 0.03, Worcester Pearmain 0.03-0.05, Cox's Orange Pippins 0.04-0.07, Russets 0.04-0.05, Laxton's Superb 0.03-0.04. Pears—Per pound Conference 0.05-0.07. Onions—Per 56-lb 1.30. Picklers 56-lb 1.30. Swedes—Per 28-lb 0.30. Sprouts—Per 28-lb 0.70-1.10. Parsnips—Per 28-lb 0.50.

FINANCIAL TIMES

Nov. 16	Nov. 15	Month ago	Year ago
186.16	185.69	183.61	99.86

(Base, July 1, 1952=100)

REUTER'S

Nov. 16	Nov. 15	Month ago	Year ago
1216.6	1216.8	1181.0	679.4

(Base, Sept. 18, 1931=100)

DOW JONES

Dow Jones	Nov. 16	Nov. 15	Month ago	Year ago
Spot	304.51	304.70	315.77	170.86
Futures	284.67	281.47	279.96	166.15

(Average 1924-25-26=100)

MOODY'S

Moody's	Nov. 16	Nov. 15	Month ago	Year ago
Sple Cmdty	878.2	876.6	856.7	444.2

(Dec. 31, 1931=100)

U.S. MARKETS

NEW YORK, Nov. 16.

COCOA OPENED higher and remained strong, reflecting an increase in the monthly Dutch grind figure. Copper traded narrowly as profit-taking matched shortcovering, closing slightly higher. Silver declined following news of pending stockpile release bill, but rallied briskly with more hopeful talk on Middle East oil, and thereafter remained firm. Sugar posted a limit advance, helped by reports that Spain bought four cargoes of whites at constructive prices. Chicago markets closed higher with commission house and local support, Bache reports.

Cocoa—Ghana spot 75¾ (74½). Bahia spot 79½ (80½). Dec. 60.35 (59.20), March 53.68 (52.50), May 50.75, July 49.75, Sept. 48.90, Dec. 48.00, March 48.05. Sales: 1,068.

Coffee—Santos No. 2/3 unquoted (same). Santos No. 4 79.50 nom. (same). Colombian Mams 71.75 nom. (same). "C" contract: Nov. 63.75-63.99 (63.25-63.75), Dec. 64.70-64.50 (64.45), March 67.70-67.?, May 68.75-69.00, July 69.80-69.90, Sept. 70.90-71.00, Nov. unquoted. Sales, 347.

Copper—Dec. 99.85 (99.35), Jan. 94.? (94.50 settlements), March 86.85, May 84.25 settlements. Sales, 3,014 lots.

Cotton—No. 2 Contract: Dec. 72.? (71.90), March 70.00 (69.25-69.10), May 68.95, July 67.65-67.75, Oct. 59.80, Dec. 55.50, March 55.15. Sales, 1,500.

ΦGreasewool—Dec. 240.0 (239.0-247.?), March 233.0-239.5 (233.5-235?), May 229?, 227.0, July 212.0 bid, Oct. 211.0, Dec. 209.0 bid, March 206.0 bid.

†Lard—Chicago loose 29 asked (? asked), NY drummed 30 asked (? asked).

††Maize—Dec. 257-257½ (255-256), March 261½-261 (260½-260), May 264-265, July 265¼, Sept. 259, Dec. 251, March 255.

‡Platinum—Jan. 159.50 (157.00), April 163.80 (161.00), July 168.10, Oct. 171.?, Jan. 174.00, April 175.80-176.50. Sales 221.

‡‡Silver—Spot 90.50 (91.50), Nov. 283.10 (278.50), Dec. 282.60 (279.20), Jan. 283.30, March 288.00, May 288.60, July 290.00, Sept. 292.00, Dec. 294.90, Jan. 295.70, March 297.70. Sales, 3,392.

*Soyabeans—Nov. 562-560 (547), Jan. 559-569 (551½), March 562-563, May 56?, 564, July 563-567, Aug. 562, Sept. 5?, Nov. 545, Jan. 547.

bSoyabean Meal—Dec. 179.00-178.? (163.30), Jan. 170.00-169.50 (164.00), March 168.00, May 168.50-168.00, July 168.00, Aug. 168.00, Sept. 166.00 bid, Oct. 163.00 bid.

Soyabean Oil—Dec. 19.10-19.20 (18.7?), Jan. 17.60-17.50 (17.25), March 16.50-16.?, May 15.90-16.00, July 15.60-15.65, Aug. 15.30, Sept. 15.10, Oct. 15.00, Dec. 14.? 14.95.

Sugar—Contract No. 11. Spot 10.? (10.00). March 10.59 (10.09-10.10), May 10.04-10.09 (9.69-9.59), July 9.57-9.50, Sept. 8.90-8.99, Oct. 8.80-8.80, March 8.17. Sales 4,738.

Tin—257.00 asked (258.00 asked).

**Wheat—Dec. 469-473 (484) asked, March 443-444 (440-438), May 405-40?, July 349-350, Sept. 348.

WINNIPEG, Nov. 16. ††Rye—Dec. 262½ bid (267), May 266 (270) asked, July 263 asked, Oct. 250 nom.

§Barley—Dec. 249 bid (246 bid), May 247½ bid (241 asked), July 220 bid, Oct. unquoted.

cOats—Dec. 167 bid (162 bid), May 155½ bid (154½ bid), July 149 bid, Oct. unquoted.

dFlaxseed—Nov. 1,037 bid (1,014 bid), Dec. 1,010 bid (989 bid), May 969, July 946 asked, Oct. 899 asked.

Wheat—ICWRS 13.5 per cent. protein content St. Lawrence 576½ (577).

All cents per pound ex-warehouse unless otherwise stated. *Cents per 60-lb bushel ex-warehouse. †Chicago loose $'s per 100 lbs — Dept. of Ag. prices previous day. Drummed $'s per 10 lbs f.o.b. NY. ‡‡Cents per troy ounce ex-warehouse. b New "B" contract in $'s a short ton for bulk lots of 100 short tons delivered f.o.b. cars Decatur and Illinois. ‡ $'s per troy ounce for 50-ounce units of 99.8 per cent. purity delivered NY. Φ New contract. **Cents per 60-lb bushel in store. ††Cents per 56-lb bushel ex-warehouse 5,000 bushel lots. c Cents per 34-lb bushel. § Cents per 48-lb bushel ex-warehouse 5,000 bushel lots. d Cents per 56-lb bushel ex-warehouse, 1,000-bushel lots.

★

LIVERPOOL COTTON—Spot and shipment sales amounted to 21 metric tonnes, bringing the total for the week to 1,140 tonnes against 530 tonnes, reports F. W. Tattersall. Few contracts were arranged due to the continued hesitation among users. Minor purchases were recorded in Latin American and African qualities.

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هكذا منى الأجل

This week's SE dealings

Friday, November 16	8,076	Wednesday, November 14	9,145	Monday, November 12	9,813
Thursday, November 15	8,550	Tuesday, November 13	7,837	Friday, November 9	8,932

The list below records all yesterday's markings and also the latest markings during the week of any share not dealt in yesterday. The latter can be distinguished by the date (in parentheses).

The number of dealings marked in each section follows the name of the section. Unless otherwise denoted shares are £1 fully paid and stock £100 fully paid. Stock Exchange securities are quoted in pounds and fractions of pounds or in new pence and fractions of new pence.

The list below gives the prices at which bargains done by members of The Stock Exchange have been recorded in The Stock Exchange Daily Official List. Members are not obliged to mark bargains, except in special cases, and the list cannot, therefore, be regarded as a complete record of prices at which business has been done. Bargains are recorded in the Official List up to 2.15 p.m. only, but later transactions can be included in the following day's Official List. No indication is available as to whether a bargain represents a sale or purchase by members of the public. Markings are not necessarily in order of execution, and only one bargain in any one security at any one price is recorded.

‡ Bargains at Special Prices. Δ Bargains done with or between non-members. ◆ Bargains done previous day. § Bargains done with members of a recognised Stock Exchange. ◆ Bargains done for delayed delivery or "no buying-in." $A—$Australian; $B—$Bahamian; $C—$Canadian; $HK—$Hong Kong; $J—$Jamaican; $Ma—$Malayan; $Me—$Mexican; $NZ—$New Zealand; $S—$Singapore; $US—$United States; $WI—$West Indian.

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC. (705)

[illegible]

Hungarian Gold Rentes 1881-88-92 1 (13/11)
Ireland (Rep. of) 7¼pc 74 (14/11). 9¼pc 81 (13/11)
Japan 4pcLn. 1910 (Enfaced) $US203. 5½pcLn. 1930 (Enfaced) 203 (13/11)
Rio de Janeiro 5½pcLn. 36 (14/11)
Roumania 4pcLn. 1922 (Brit Iss.) 18½ (14/11)
Spanish 4pcBds. 51½ (15/11)
Uruguay 5pcLn. 1905 100
Anglo American Corp. of S. Africa 7½pc Ln. 1987 $US92¼ (13/11)

CORPN. STKS.—FOREIGN (1)

Danzig (Mun. of) 7pcLn. 1925 16

[illegible]

Alida Packaging (10p) 113 (13/11)
Allen (E.) (25p) 61◆ (15/11)
Allen (W. G.) Sons (Tipton) New Ord. (25p) 67 (12/11)
Alliance Alders Paper and Packaging (10p) 28
Allied Carpet Stores (10p) 127◆
Allied Colloids (10p) 178◆ 70
Allied Insulators (25p) 24 3½ 3 (15/11)
Allied Investments (5p) 48 50
Allied Polymer Group (25p) 86
Allied Suppliers 3¼pcLn. 82½ (13/11). 6pc Ln. 59 (13/11). 6¼pcLn. 53 (12/11)
Allied Textile Companies (25p) 86. 6½pc Pf. 56 (13/11)
Alpine Holdings (5p) 57◆ 9
Alpine Soft Drinks (10p) 123 4 (15/11)
Aluminium Con. (25p) 89 (12/11)

[illegible]

British Tar Prods. (10p) 32½◆
British Vending Inds. (10p) 18◆
British Vita (25p) 115◆ 10‡
Brittains (25p) 35‡ (15/11)
Britton (G. B.) Sons (Hldgs.) 9¼pcDb. 80¼◆
Brockhouse (J.) 20◆‡
Brocks Group of Cos. (10p) 61◆
Brook Street Bureau Mayfair (10p) 130
Brooke Bond Liebig A (25p) 110 (13/11). B (25p) 50½. 5¼pcDb. 60½. 7½pc Unsec.Ln. 63½ (15/11). 7pcUnsec.Ln. 74
Brooks Watson Group (20p) 61◆ (15/11)
Brotherhood (Peter) (50p) 104◆ 3. 5½pc Pf. 41◆ (15/11)
Brown Tawse (25p) 92
Brown Bros. Albany (10p) 44◆ 6 5½ 6½.

[illegible]

Diploma Inv. (25p) 50 3
Dixon (David) Son Hldgs. (25p) 177½‡ 84 8
Dixon Photographic (10p) 80◆ 2‡ 4 3 5. A Ord. (10p) 88◆ 9◆ 60◆ ½ 1
Dobson Park Indus. (10p) 58½◆ 9¼ 9. 8¼pcDb. 68◆ (15/11)
Dolan Packaging (10p) 50½ (15/11). 8¼pc Ln. 90◆ (15/11)
Doland (George) (10p) 28
Dom Hldgs. (10p) 56 (12/11)
Doncaster (Daniel) Sons (25p) 82 (15/11)
Dorada Hldgs. (25p) 65 6 (12/11)
Douglas (Robt. M.) (Contractors) (25p) 93
Dover Eng. Grp. (10p) 41 (13/11)
Dowding and Mills (5p) 40 1 38 (15/11)
Dowgate and Gen. Invsts. (25p) 54◆ ½ 5

[illegible]

Q—R—S

T—U—V

W—Y—Z

N—O—P

ELEC. LIGHTING & POWER (3)

FINANCIAL TRUSTS, ETC. (24)

GAS (14)

INSURANCE (186)

INVESTMENT TRUSTS (505)

UNIT TRUSTS (3)

IRON, COAL & STEEL (51)

MINES

Australian (30)

Miscellaneous (105)

Rhod. & E. African (18)

South African (163)

West African (8)

Diamond (43)

OIL (251)

PROPERTY (617)

RUBBER (32)

SHIPPING (163)

TEA & COFFEE (12)

Bandanga Hldgs. (25p) 114⊕
Blantyre Tea Hldgs. 220
Borelli Tea 85
British Indian Tea (Hldgs.) 77 (13/11)
Camellia Invests. (10p) 56 (15/11)
Cessnock Hldgs. 220⊕ 15. 4.2pcPf. 48 (12/11)
Ceylon Indian Planters' Hldgs. 92 (13/11)
Chubwa Tea 62 (13/11)
Consolidated Tea Lands 208 (15/11). 5pc Pf. 45 (14/11). 7pcPf. 67 (12/11)
Cropsby House Group 125 (14/11)
Deltenne (Ceylon) Tea Estates (10p) 10½ (15/11)
Empire of India Hldgs. (10p) 4¼ (13/11)
Gen. Ceylon (10p) 8¼ (14/11)
Highland Tea of Ceylon (25p) 22 (14/11)
Jokai Tea Hldgs. 69 (15/11)
Lebong Tea 110
Longbourne Hldgs. 88 (14/11)
Lunuva (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber 48 (15/11)

TRAMWAYS & OMNIBUS (2)

WATERWORKS (19)

Colne Valley Water 7pc 52¼ (12/11). 4pcCons.Pf. 28½
East Anglian Water 10pcPf. 114½ (13/11)
East Surrey Water A (10pc Max.) 77 (13/11). 4pcDb. 29 (13/11)
East Worcs 9pcPf. 74
Essex 5pcPf. 39½ (13/11). 4½pcPf. 86 (12/11). 6pcPf. 57⊕. 8pcDb. 64
Folkestone District 4pcPf. (Non-Cum.) 30 (12/11). 5pcDb. 37 (12/11)
Hartlepools 5pc 36½
Lee Valley 5pc 38½ 7½ (13/11). 4pcPf. 28 (14/11). 7½pcDb. 1991-93 61
Mid Kent 5pcPf. 38 (14/11). 8pcDb. 76 (12/11)
Mid-Southern 5pcCons.Ord. 34½⊕ (15/11). 6pcPf. 1984-86 58.9 (12/11)
Newcastle Gateshead 5pcCons.Pf. 37½ (13/11). 5pcDb. 37 (13/11)
North Surrey 4.9pcAOrd. 51 (13/11). 3.15pcPf. 33 (12/11). 3.5pcPf. 39 8 (13/11)
Portsmouth (5pc Max.) 35½ 6 (13/11)
Rickmansworth Uxbridge 37. 5pcCons.Pf. 60. 6½pcPf. 69⊕. 7pcPf. 1987-88 60 (12/11)
S. Staffordshire 8 (7pc Max.) 52⊕. 3pcPf. 23 (12/11). 5pcPf. 39½ (15/11)
Sutton District 3½pcDb. 23 (13/11)
Tendring 4pcPf. 310 (12/11). 6½pcPf. 65 (12/11)
West Hampshire 5pcOrd. 37½ (12/11). 4½pcPf. (£10) 325 (12/11). 4pcDb. 28 (12/11)

SPECIAL LIST

NOVEMBER 16

Assoc. Fisheries 8pcPf. 31
Chepstow Racecourse p613⊕ 15⊕
North Devon Water Board 4pc 1996 (Red) 39¼⊕ 40⊕

NOVEMBER 15 (1)

Acmex 18 17½

NOVEMBER 14

Seaham Harbour Dock 4½pcCumPf. 25⊕ 60

NOVEMBER 13 (Nil)

NOVEMBER 12 (2)

Bassett (Geo.) Hldgs. 7½pcCum.Pf. p56⊕

RULE 163 (1) (e)

Bargains marked under Rule 163 (1) (e) in securities for which quotation has not been granted and which are not recorded in the Official List.

NOVEMBER 16

Acmex 18
Acmin 14½
Aldershot (50c.) 75
Alexander Fund 470
Algoma Steel £11
Amsterdam Rotterdam Bank £14¼
Argo Invest. 128 30 28
Atlantic Richfield £58½
Aust. Cons. Minerals (20c.) 1p
BP Canada 735⊕
B. and S. Inds. A 125⊕ 2
Bank NSW 577⊕
Bounty Invest. 81. New 80 5
Bridge Oil 51⊕
Canadian Breweries Com. 220
Canadian Cement 584 P.m. 6
Cathay Secs. 39
Ciegy 7¼pc 100
Coles G. J. 124

NOVEMBER 15

NOVEMBER 14

Acme Gas Oil 6½
Advertising News 170
Aquitaine $US11⅞⊕ £63
Aust. Motor Inds. 48
Beriuntal Tin 275
Comalco 170⊕
Consd. Food 44
Containers 170⊕
Hamburg Elec. Werke (Br.) £24¼
Hamersley Hldgs. 110⊕
Hewlett Packard

Indian Iron Steel 19½⊕
Jardine Secs. 118
Marlennan Cpn. £21$^{11}_{16}$⊕

Van Ommeren £63
Whim Creek 45
Wilson (H.J.) 635
Yukon Cons. 97 9

REGIONAL MARKETS

Prices in pence and denominations of 25p unless otherwise stated

BELFAST

B'fast 6½%80	266	......
Finlay Pkg (5p)	26	......
Hughes (B) (£1)	180	......
NIrish Sc't Inv	40	......

IRISH EXCHANGE

Exeq. 6%80/85	[illegible]	......
Alliance Gas £1	91	......
Carroll (P. J.)	145	......
Cons. Prod. Ire.	140	−20
Clondalkin	67xd	+1½
Goodbody (£1)	100	......
Heiton (Hldgs)	80	......
Irish Distillers	91	−5
Irish Wire Rd.	85	......
Jacob	69¼xd	......
Smith Grp 10p	40	......
Sunbeam	54	......
Unidare	79	−1

MIDLANDS & WESTERN

Bham Post A	50	......
Erona 10p	37	+1
Evans F.W.10p	61½	......
Evered	32½	......
Pr'st&Reed50p	266	−4
Gardiner £1	67½	......
Graig Sh'p(£1)	740	......
Hal'mSl'gh10p	17½	......
Kleen-e-ze	54	......
Lovell'sShip£1	200	......
Pearce C.H.	126	......
Sindall (Wm.)	117	......
Vincent (H.)	127½	......

NORTHERN EXCHANGE

AlbanyInv 20p	21½	......
Ash Spinning	60	......
Booth Chas 10p	18	......
Brady (G). 'A'	75	−1
Br'watrEst50p	335	+5
BrtN'th'p (50p)	90	......
BuryRing(30p)	23	......
Clover Croft	62	......
Dyson R.A.'A'	65	......
Ellen road	67	......
EngNatInvPf.	30¾	......
Do. Deferred	45	......
Ers Ring	40	......
Gardiner (Lo	142	......
Hart'y'Ind 20p	41½	......
Higson Brew	119½	−½
HoltJos'ph25p	117½	−4½
I.O.M.Stm £1	150½	+5
Nichols Vim	108	+5½
NthnGld'mth	125½	......
P.M.A.	160	......
Peel Mills	30	......
SayersCon12½	30	......
Shiloh Spinn	34	......
SwanLan33⅓p	57	......
Tavn'r Rnt 20p	70	......
Wood (Ed)	20½	......
WodwrdH12½p	40	......

SCOTTISH EXCHANGE

Bertrams	47½	......
Craig&Rose£1	430	......
Dundee Ice £1	180	......
DundeeCrm£1	300	......
Ellis & McHdy	57	......
Fife Forge	68	......
Hill (Wylie)	115	......
Lees (JJ) (10p)	34½	......
Richards (10p)	22½	......

هكذا من الأصل

NEW "HIGHS" AND "LOWS" FOR 1973

New "lows," which are too numerous to name individually, were attained by 152 securities and are listed below in their sub-sections. New "highs" numbered 9.

NEW "HIGHS" (9)

AMERICANS (1)
Continental Oil
CANADIANS (1)
Brascan
BUILDINGS (1)
Ibstock/Baggeridge Brick
DRAPERY & STORES (1)
Forbuoys
FOODS (1)
Oriel Foods
HOTELS (1)
O.M. Holiday
INDUSTRIALS (2)
Fertleman (B.) Lindsay & Williams
TEAS (1)
Deenock

NEW "LOWS" (152)

CORPORATION LOANS (1)
FOREIGN BONDS (1)
AMERICANS (3)
BANKS (2)
BEERS (3)
BUILDINGS (10)
CHEMICALS (3)
CINEMAS (1)
DRAPERY & STORES (10)
ELECTRICALS (2)
ENGINEERING (25)
FOODS (1)
INDUSTRIALS (21)
INSURANCE (6)
MOTORS (6)
PROPERTY (1)
SHOES (2)
TEXTILES (3)
TRUSTS (30)
OILS (2)
TEAS (2)
MINES (5)

[illegible]

RISES AND FALLS YESTERDAY

	Up	Down	Same
British Funds	66	—	2
Corpns., Dom. and Foreign Bonds	16	3	63
Industrials	636	257	862
Financial and Prop.	381	101	282
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

NOVEMBER 13

[illegible]

NOVEMBER 12

[illegible]

ERRATA

[illegible]

CORAL INDEX

Close 401-406

SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE: NOTES

[illegible]

MONEY + EXCHANGES

Rates remain unsettled

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 13%
(since November 13, 1973)

Short-term interest rates remained unsettled in the London money market yesterday, although the reaching of a new average rate of discount for Treasury bills at the weekly tender removed one area of uncertainty—with rate rising 1.7002 per cent. to 12.4126 per cent., bringing the Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate back onto the basis of its standard formula, after it had been raised on Tuesday, independently of the formula, from 11¼ per cent. to 13 per cent. Quotations for various types of loans tended to vary widely within each category, with borrowers and lenders finding it particularly difficult to agree terms in some areas of the local loans market.

Day-to-day credit was in fair supply, and books were balanced without official intervention. Banks had carried over a surplus from the previous day, but, as widely expected, this was broadly cancelled by new factors, with the market facing a net Treasury bill take-up, an excess of Government disbursements over revenue transfers to the Exchequer, and a rise in the note circulation. Discount houses bid 10¾-11¼ per cent. in places for secured call loans to start with, but later balances were found at 7-8 per cent. or so.

In the inter-bank market, overnight loans were at 9½-10 per cent. early-on, but touched 3 per cent. in some quarters at the end.

The minimum-accepted bid for Treasury bills at the weekly tender was reduced by 42p to £96.90 (equivalent to an increase of 1.8846 per cent. to 12.4341 per cent. in annual discount terms). The amount of bills offered was reduced by £170m. to £80m., and applications fell by £203.3m. to £218.7m. Bids the minimum-accepted were met as to about 43 per cent., against the 45 per cent. secured the previous week at £97.32 per cent. All bills offered were allotted, while next week the tender will be raised to £200m., set against maturities of £180m.

Nov. 16 1973	Sterling Certificates of deposits	Inter-bank	Local Authority deposit*	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance house deposit	Company deposits	Discount market deposits	Treasury bills Φ	Bank bills Φ	Fine trade bills Φ
Overnight	—	5-10	—	—	—	10-12	7-11½	—	—	—
2 days notice.	—	—	11½-12½	—	—	13	—	—	—	—
†7 days or 7 days notice.	—	11-12¼	12¾-13½	—	13-13¼	13½	10-11¼	—	—	—
One month	13⅛-13⅛	13¼-13⅝	13¼-13¾	13⅝-12¼	13½-13⅞	—	11⅝-12¼	12$\frac{3}{16}$-12½	13½-13¾	13¾-13¾
Two months	14⅛-14	14⅛-14⅝	—	14⅝ 13	14⅛-14⅝	—	11¾-12⅝	12$\frac{1}{16}$-12⅜	13⅜-13⅝	14-13¾
Three months	15-14⅝	14¾-15	14¼-15	15 13½	14⅞-15¼	—	11¾-12¾	12½-12$\frac{9}{16}$	13⅜-13½	13¾ 13¾
Six months	15⅛-14¾	14¾-15	14½-15	15¼-14	14⅞-15¼	—	—	—	14¼-15	15-16
Nine months	14⅜-14⅜	14¾-14¾		15¼-14¼	14⅝-15	—	—	—	—	—
One year	14½ 14¼	14¼-14½	14-14¾	15-14	14¼-14⅞	—	—	—	—	—
Two years	14¼-15½	15½-14¼	13⅞-14¼	15-14	—	—	—	—	—	—

† Local authorities and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days fixed. * Long-term local authorities mortgage rates nominally 13¾ per cent. for three years; 13¾ per cent. for four years; and 13¾ per cent. for five years. Φ Bank bill rates in table are buying rates for prime paper. Buying rate for four-month bank bills about 13¾-15 per cent.; and for four-month trade bills about 14¼-15¼ per cent. Approximate selling rate one-month Treasury bills 11¾-12¼ per cent.; for two-month 12-12$\frac{5}{16}$ per cent.; and three-month 12¼-12¾ per cent. Approximate selling rate for one-month bank bills 13¼-13¾ per cent.; for two-month 12¾-13¼ per cent.; and for three-month 12¾-13¾ per cent.; for one-month trade bills 13-13¾ per cent.; two-month 13-13¾ per cent.; and three-month 13-14 per cent.

Finance House Base Rate (published by the Finance Houses Association): 13½ per cent. from November 1. Clearing Bank Deposit Rates: For small sums at seven days' notice 9½ per cent., and Base Rates for lending 13 per cent.

Treasury Bills: Average tender rate of discount 12.4126 per cent.

Tax Deposit Account: Deposit earned a basic 8.13 per cent. in the April-June quarter if withdrawn within that quarter, and 7.33 per cent.; if not; in the July-Sept. quarter interest accrued at a rate of 7.33 per cent. for deposits withdrawn within the quarter, and if not so withdrawn, at 10.11 per cent.; in the Oct.-Dec. quarter interest accrues at 10.11 per cent. on deposits withdrawn within that quarter, and if not so withdrawn at the average Treasury bill rate for the period.

EXCHANGES AND BULLION

Sterling fell modestly on balance against major currencies in general yesterday, and marginally against the dollar, in terms of which it lost 5 points to $2.3860-$2.3870. The trade-weighted average depreciation in the pound against 10 major currencies (including the dollar) since the Washington Currency Agreement of December, 1971, widened on the day to 17.54 per cent., from a (corrected) figure of 17.42 per cent. on Thursday, and 17.06 per cent. on Wednesday. Conditions in the market were generally quiet over the day, with interest lying for the most part in the up-valuation of the Norwegian krone by 5 per cent. announced overnight. But in the later stages, some confusion surrounded reports of a change in Middle East oil supply policy, and reports of such being denied. Good activity was seen in the later stages as a result, with the dollar weakening erratically. Sterling opened at about $2.3800, but rose quickly to $2.3855 or so, and then advanced in the later afternoon (London time) to $2.3880-2.3890, before easing a little at the very end.

The Norwegian krone ended at Kr.5.4850 to the dollar, against Kr.5.77½ a week earlier, ranging over the day between Kr.5.4800 and Kr.5.5300, compared with Kr.5.0500 and Kr.5.3500 on Thursday. The Bundesbank was reported to sell Swedish Kr.7.9m. and Danish Kr.2.9m. at the Frankfurt fixing.

Gold was reduced on balance in London to $90-91 an ounce, from the previous $90-92, in moderate business. The metal opened at about $91-92, while the morning fixing was at $91.25 (£38.250), and the afternoon at $90.25 (£37.834). New sovereigns ended at $27½-28½, and old at $32½-33½, while double Eagles were at $164-166, single at $75-77, and half at $45-47, with 20-mark pieces at $40-42.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Nov. 16 1973	Bank Rate %	Day's Spread	Close
New York	7½	2.3780-2.3895	2.3860-.3870
Montreal	6¼	2.3805-.3865	2.3840-.3850
Amst'dam	7	6.39-.47	6.38½-.46½
Brussels	7	91.70-93.40	91.75-92.50
Copen'gen	8	14.10-.35	14.11-.14
Frankf'rt	7	6.16-.25	6.15½-.16½
Lisbon	Δ5¾	57.50-58.50	57.95-58.10
Madrid	††6	136.90-7.00	136.20-.70
Milan	6½	1,408-1,476	1,408½-[illegible]
Oslo	4½	13.55-.77	13.07-.09
†Paris	11	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stock'hlm	5	[illegible]	10.53-.54
Tokyo	7	662-672	665-668
Vienna	5½	44.30-45.30	[illegible]
Zurich	4½	[illegible]	[illegible]-.55

†† Basic discounts. Δ Bank of Portugal discount rate. † Rates given are for convertible franc; closing financial franc 91.55-92.15. ‡ Rates given are for commercial franc; closing financial franc 10.72-10.74. Φ Rates given are commercial; closing financial rate 1,479.

OTHER MARKET RATES

Argentina	[illegible]	¶Note Rates	
Australia	[illegible]	Argentina	54-59
Brazil	[illegible]	Austria	45-47
Finland	[illegible]	Belgium	[illegible]
Greece	[illegible]	Brazil	18-19
H'ngK'ng	[illegible]	Canada	2.39-.42½
Luxemb'rg	[illegible]	France	10.78-10.95
Malaysia	[illegible]	Germany	6.15-6.30
N.Zeal'nd	[illegible]	Greece	67-69
Singapore	[illegible]	Italy	1,540-1,590
S. Africa	[illegible]	Japan	675-695
U.S.—		N'thrl'ds	6.30-6.55
Canada		Spain	135½-137½
$=U.S.		Sw'tz'l'nd	7.45-7.75
cent	100.04 100.07	U.S.	2.38 2.42½

¶ Based on rates quoted by specialist dealers. Other rates may be quoted elsewhere. (a) Selling price. © Commercial rates. Financial rate [illegible].

EXCHANGE CROSS-RATES

Nov. 16	Frankfurt	New York	Paris	Brussels	London	Amsterdam	Zurich
Frankfurt	—	2.584 598	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
N. York	38.68 65	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	37.18 23	[illegible]
Paris (b)	170.60 85	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	[illegible]	38.93-98	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
London	[illegible]	2 386 387	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	7.54-55
Amst'dm	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]
Zurich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—

U.S. $ in Montreal [illegible]. Canadian $ in New York [illegible]. U.S. $ in Milan [illegible]. Sterling in Milan [illegible]. (b) Commercial.

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES*

[illegible]

Euro-French franc rates: two-days' notice 11-11½ per cent.; seven-days notice 11-11½ per cent.; one-month 10¾-11½ per cent.; three-month 11-11½ per cent.; six-month 10¾-11½ per cent.; and 12-month 10¾-10¾ per cent.

Longer-term Eurodollar rates were as follows: two years 9-9½ per cent.; three years 8$\frac{15}{16}$-9$\frac{1}{16}$ per cent.; four years 8$\frac{15}{16}$-9$\frac{1}{16}$ per cent.; and five years 8$\frac{15}{16}$-9$\frac{1}{16}$ per cent.

The following nominal rates were quoted for London dollar certificates of deposit: one month 8$\frac{15}{16}$-9½ per cent.; three months 9¼-9¾ per cent.; six months 8$\frac{11}{16}$-9½ per cent.; one year 9¼-9½ per cent.

* Rates are nominal closing rates.

† Short-term rates are call for sterling; U.S. dollars and Canadian dollars are two days' notice for guilders, marks and Swiss francs.

FORWARD RATES

[illegible]

Six-month forward dollar 6.30-6.30 c.pm. and 12-month 12.25-12.00 c.pm.

Bank base rates Page 19

Container rate for freight to Canada rising

By James McDonald, Shipping Correspondent

HIGHER CHARGES for container services in the U.K. for "westbound house-to-house and house-to-pier" containers are to be introduced from next February 18 by member lines of the Canadian North Atlantic Westbound Freight Conference operating between the U.K. and Canadian St. Lawrence, Great Lakes and Maritime ports.

The lines say they continue to be concerned at the "apparent unending escalation in their operating expenses over which they have no control" and that the container service charges applicable in the U.K. are not compensatory. The charge for 20-feet containers is to be raised to £9 per container, and for 40-feet containers to £14.40 per container.

Member lines of the conference are: Atlantic Container Line; Canadian Pacific Steamships; Dart Containerline; Johnston Warren Lines; Furness Warren Line; Manchester Liners; Hapag-Lloyd; and Ernst Russ.

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Dep.	Share Accnts.	Sub'pn Shares	Term Shares
Abbey National	7.25%	7.50%	8.0 %	—
Alliance	7.25%	7.50%	—	7.75%
Anglia	7.25%	7.50%	8.0 %	7.75%
Bradford & Bingley	7.25%	7.50%	8.0 %	7.75%
Chelsea	7.25%	7.60%	7.85%	—
Derbyshire	7.25%	7.50%	8.75%	—
Halifax	7.25%	7.50%	8.0 %	—
Hendon	7.35%	7.77%	—	*8.05%
Leicester Permanent	7.25%	7.50%	8.0 %	7.75%
Nationwide	7.25%	7.50%	8.0 %	7.75%
Northern Rock	7.25%	7.50%	8.25%	‡8.0 %
Paisley	7.25%	7.50%	8.0 %	—

* Six months min. ‡ Three years.

LOCAL AUTHORITY DEPOSIT RATES

Local Authority	Rate	Min. sum	Period years	Rate	Min. sum	Period years
*Bradford County B.C.	10¾%	£500	2-4	—	—	—
London B. Wandsworth	11¼%	£500	1-2	10¾%	£50	1-2

* Special terms for £25,000 and over.

ACTIVE STOCKS

ON THE WEEK—

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price	Change on week	1973 high	1973 low
BP	£1	85	561	+11	600	465
Star (GB)	50p	85	168	− 9	186½	110
ICI	£1	80	231	−11	294	226
Amal. Inv. & Prp.	25p	77	134	−16	158	69
Land Secs.	50p	76	235	−37	273	157
Whitting'm (Wm.)	12½p	66	151	+ 8	166	66½
Boots	25p	58	245	−12	310	225
Rank "A" n/v	25p	58	395	−55	556	368
House of Fraser	25p	56	129½	− 4½	158	104
Scot. & Newcastle	20p	56	86½	− 1	124	73½
Beecham	25p	55	291	−10	311	249
Courtaulds	25p	53	136	−10	166½	130
Lonrho	25p	53	92	− 4	132	54
Burmah Oil	£1	51	412	−14	506	384
Shell Transport	25p	50	244	− 8	363	232

YESTERDAY—

Prices in pence except where otherwise indicated.

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price	Change on day	1973 high	1973 low
BP	£1	12	561	+ 9	600	465
Court Line	25p	12	87	—	170	83
Rank "A" n/v.	25p	12	395	—	556	368
Amal. Inv. & Prp.	25p	11	134	+ 5	158	69
Land Secs.	50p	10	235	+ 7	273	157
ICI	£1	10	231	+ 2	294	226
Barclays Bank	£1	9	352	− 2	468	332
Courtaulds	25p	8	136	+ 1	166½	130
De Beers Defd.	R0.05	8	308	− 2	412	300
GEC	25p	8	142	+ 4	154	127
Keith & Hend'son	5p	8	138	+15	147	60
Nat. Westminster	£1	8	342	+ 8	473	325
Royal Insurance	25p	8	277	− 7	406	277
Bowater	£1	7	176	+ 4	224	151
Star (GB)	50p	7	168	+11	186½	110

The above list of active stocks is based on the number of bargains recorded yesterday in the Official list and under Rule 163(1) (e) and reproduced to-day in Stock Exchange dealings.

F.T.—ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of The Financial Times, The Institute of Actuaries and The Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS — GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS. Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section.

	Groups & Sub-sections	Fri. Nov. 16 Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings yield % (full)	Gross Div. yield %	Est. P/E Ratio (net)	Est. P/E Ratio (nil)	Thurs. Nov. 15 Index No.	Wed. Nov. 14 Index No.	Tuesday Nov. 13 Index No.	Monday Nov. 12 Index No.	Year ago (approx.) Index No.	1973 High	1973 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1	CAPITAL GOODS (185)	160.87	+1.3	11.63	4.69	11.90	11.89	148.99	155.67	156.61	161.10	180.21	186.05 (17/1)	148.99 (15/11)	206.37 (4/5/72)	82.88 (25/6/66)
2	Building Materials (29)	147.89	+1.6	13.56	4.83	10.10	10.10	145.50	150.59	154.92	159.72	191.17	198.59 (2/1)	145.50 (15/11)	233.84 (2/5/72)	85.01 (25/6/62)
3	Contracting, Construction (22)	267.47	+2.9	12.33	3.25	11.45	11.41	259.84	274.29	285.06	294.24	333.68	348.47 (17/1)	259.84 (15/11)	389.33 (19/5/72)	84.39 (27/6/66)
4	Electricals (17)	268.89	+1.2	11.21	3.84	12.22	12.22	265.74	272.62	277.73	286.37	299.15	307.90 (9/1)	258.46 (4/9)	350.04 (4/5/72)	84.71 (25/6/62)
5	Engineering (Heavy) (15)	160.31	+1.0	12.76	4.84	10.34	10.34	158.77	166.32	168.79	174.23	161.16	202.57 (8/6)	158.77 (15/11)	202.57 (8/6/73)	151.45 (29/9/72)
6	Engineering (General) (64)	126.81	+0.7	11.14	5.64	12.53	12.54	125.92	129.19	130.55	133.72	164.03	158.54 (2/1)	125.92 (15/11)	168.59 (4/5/72)	125.92 (15/11/73)
7	Machine and Other Tools (14)	55.40	+0.8	5.36	7.00	32.05	29.68	54.98	56.57	56.41	57.94	68.37	67.86 (8/6)	54.98 (15/11)	136.70 (4/7/66)	43.86 (5/3/71)
8	Miscellaneous (24)	138.23	+0.8	10.18	4.49	13.73	13.70	137.14	140.21	141.72	145.50	163.55	175.76 (11/1)	137.14 (15/11)	177.41 (27/4/72)	69.01 (8/11/63)
9	CONSUMER GOODS (DURABLE) (59)	160.67	+1.6	12.51	3.83	11.10	11.06	158.03	162.94	166.25	172.08	203.56	210.88 (11/1)	158.03 (15/11)	227.78 (21/4/72)	79.15 (25/6/62)
10	Lt. Electronics, Radio TV (14)	196.42	+1.7	9.91	2.50	14.08	14.02	193.11	198.43	202.90	208.42	242.37	251.93 (11/1)	187.21 (11/6)	257.41 (19/6/72)	71.10 (16/1/66)
11	Household Goods (16)	205.88	+0.1	14.42	4.11	9.59	9.54	205.73	210.80	214.38	221.70	259.44	237.99 (2/1)	198.60 (5/9)	263.22 (4/5/72)	86.65 (26/6/62)
12	Motors and Distributors (29)	85.35	+2.1	15.85	5.17	8.72	8.71	83.59	86.89	88.48	92.73	116.75	122.75 (17/1)	83.59 (15/11)	170.59 (15/1/69)	75.92 (24/10/62)
13	CONSUMER GOODS (NON-DURABLE) (169)	162.45	+1.1	10.88	4.66	13.04	12.93	160.72	164.42	167.18	171.45	213.70	212.13 (2/1)	160.72 (15/11)	226.08 (18/8/72)	83.71 (8/11/66)
14	Breweries (16)	191.78	+1.3	10.35	4.56	13.83	13.83	189.36	196.90	199.39	201.87	277.59	265.23 (2/1)	187.61 (27/7)	281.87 (28/11/72)	80.30 (30/8/66)
15	Wines and Spirits (8)	195.71	+2.4	9.38	4.33	18.06	18.06	191.16	197.38	198.67	205.81	210.70	216.12 (17/1)	174.44 (11/7)	257.40 (15/7/72)	118.78 (16/6/70)
16	Entertainment, Catering (15)	202.25	+0.8	12.27	5.19	11.15	11.13	200.64	207.74	210.53	213.80	207.51	323.23 (19/7)	200.64 (15/11)	329.99 (12/12/72)	30.11 (25/7/62)
17	Food Manufacturing (24)	146.10	+1.2	11.52	4.59	11.91	11.91	144.33	146.86	148.69	151.99	187.13	187.87 (2/1)	144.33 (15/11)	211.65 (1/5/72)	95.98 (16/6/70)
18	Food Retailing (18)	153.08	+1.6	8.69	3.40	16.29	16.29	150.64	153.44	156.25	160.76	205.55	217.48 (2/1)	150.64 (15/11)	235.08 (10/8/72)	94.69 (25/6/70)
19	Newspapers, Publishing (16)	217.87	+0.3	11.70	4.05	12.13	12.13	217.13	219.54	223.50	229.40	237.82	260.29 (18/1)	216.08 (12/9)	260.29 (18/1/73)	81.74 (5/5/62)
20	Packaging and Paper (14)	97.14	+2.3	11.67	5.75	11.72	11.70	95.00	97.46	101.08	103.81	124.54	126.47 (2/1)	95.00 (15/11)	135.69 (28/4/72)	87.91 (29/6/62)
21	Stores (28)	146.65	+0.8	9.02	3.85	16.83	16.82	145.50	147.99	150.46	154.56	189.70	186.50 (2/1)	145.50 (15/11)	204.39 (16/8/72)	72.74 (8/11/66)
22	Textiles (20)	164.32	+0.9	13.88	5.76	8.47	7.91	162.79	166.74	169.65	175.69	225.76	213.80 (2/1)	161.55 (6/9)	253.72 (17/8/69)	89.90 (20/7/62)
23	Tobacco (3)	224.90	+0.3	12.55	6.99	11.08	11.03	224.16	230.24	236.66	243.52	296.79	289.55 (2/1)	224.16 (15/11)	339.16 (2/8/72)	94.54 (13/6/62)
24	Toys and Games (6)	62.13	−1.7	12.54	3.54	11.13	11.13	63.21	64.97	65.99	67.86	76.20	80.79 (15/1)	61.76 (24/8)	135.72 (16/1/70)	44.90 (9/9/71)
	OTHER GROUPS															
25	Chemicals (22)	156.59	+0.4	8.85	4.49	15.63	15.60	155.96	157.93	159.31	165.98	184.50	191.47 (17/1)	155.24 (4/9)	201.92 (31/1/69)	93.29 (25/6/62)
26	Office Equipment (10)	169.41	−0.8	6.03	2.51	21.86	21.86	170.82	176.41	183.16	185.81	215.67	227.62 (8/1)	163.93 (21/6)	246.06 (1/9/72)	109.12 (28/5/70)
27	Shipping (10)	456.77	+2.4	9.10	4.02	13.06	11.80	428.66	446.62	453.02	466.46	489.78	515.97 (19/1)	420.07 (6/9)	517.00 (5/12/72)	90.80 (29/6/62)
28	Miscellaneous (41)	189.62	+1.5	10.34	4.16	13.61	13.60	186.76	193.36	197.86	202.46	243.46	252.39 (17/1)	186.76 (15/11)	258.83 (2/5/72)	76.52 (6/11/66)
29	INDUSTRIAL GROUP (496)	163.27	+1.1	10.56	4.41	13.02	12.92	161.50	165.76	168.75	173.50	205.75	207.00 (2/1)	161.50 (15/11)	220.17 (1/5/72)	120.61 (3/3/71)
30	Oil (4)	268.71	+1.5	5.59	4.58	23.71	17.90	264.79	264.01	260.28	268.42	301.41	328.39 (16/1)	247.06 (15/10)	431.66 (29/5/69)	87.23 (29/5/62)
31	500 SHARE INDEX	172.39	+1.1	9.93	4.43	13.82	13.40	170.44	174.30	176.74	181.79	214.14	217.40 (10/1)	170.44 (15/11)	227.95 (16/8/72)	84.86 (26/6/62)
32	FINANCIAL GROUP (101)	181.04	+1.5	—	3.38	—	—	178.43	184.37	189.77	196.42	221.45	[illegible] (8/1)	[illegible] (6/9)	[illegible] (21/4/72)	[illegible] (30/6/66)
33	Banks (6)	199.46	+2.4	13.45	3.15	10.51	10.51	194.64	201.71	208.28	214.93	256.98	269.68 (9/1)	189.61 (6/9)	288.32 (20/7/71)	59.25 (16/6/64)
34	Discount Houses (8)	158.67	+1.8	—	7.39	—	—	155.92	165.69	169.51	192.47	227.89	258.57 (23/5)	155.92 (15/11)	293.13 (2/5/72)	87.65 (18/6/66)
35	Hire Purchase (5)	291.92	−0.1	11.73	4.32	12.11	12.11	292.10	309.33	320.86	336.69	382.82	374.92 (9/1)	[illegible] (7/9)	[illegible] (4/5/72)	80.02 (3/8/65)
36	Insurance (Life) (9)	133.27	+1.0	—	4.05	—	—	132.01	135.48	137.58	140.37	188.83	186.26 (9/1)	126.52 (6/9)	194.46 (15/5/72)	61.56 (30/6/62)
37	Insurance (Composite) (8)	101.48	−2.2	—	5.02	—	—	103.77	103.32	103.71	106.30	139.08	141.37 (9/1)	101.48 (16/11)	155.76 (21/4/72)	54.40 (18/5/66)
38	Insurance (Brokers) (8)	206.62	+1.0	7.63	3.55	18.54	18.54	206.56	208.25	211.97	215.49	246.46	249.06 (2/1)	[illegible] (28/8)	262.37 (12/12/72)	88.59 (24/7/66)
39	Merchant Banks (18)	184.35	+1.1	—	3.00	—	—	182.25	187.77	192.30	196.72	250.59	253.12 (9/1)	182.25 (15/11)	278.57 (1/5/72)	50.47 (15/7/66)
40	Property (29)	311.52	+3.6	3.35	1.98	40.30	39.51	300.59	318.90	334.69	354.60	290.36	357.40 (9/11)	[illegible] (2/3)	357.40 (9/11/73)	56.01 (20/4/65)
41	Miscellaneous (10)	181.68	+1.5	10.82	4.92	13.13	13.13	179.01	184.36	190.66	195.41	241.59	241.14 (17/1)	174.94 (6/9)	[illegible] (15/6/72)	120.06 (31/12/70)
42	Investment Trust Group (50)	173.60	+1.3	3.31	3.33	30.57	30.34	171.29	176.28	178.65	182.40	233.07	[illegible] (19/1)	171.29 (15/11)	[illegible] (25/4/72)	[illegible] (25/6/62)
43	ALL-SHARE INDEX (651)	173.12	+1.2	—	4.13	—	—	171.05	175.57	178.41	183.69	215.34	[illegible] (10/1)	171.03 (15/11)	[illegible] (1/5/72)	63.72 (25/6/62)
	COMMODITY GROUPS (Not included in 500 or All-Share indices)															
44	Rubbers (10)	439.03	−0.9	4.85	4.65	27.81	22.09	445.02	456.94	464.45	466.68	338.21	555.37 (23/7)	415.62 (22/1)	555.37 (23/7/73)	84.68 (25/8/65)
45	Teas (10)	109.96	+0.1	3.97	7.99	62.07	39.27	109.63	111.36	112.38	111.80	101.65	120.92 (16/1)	102.71 (25/9)	121.47 (1/5/72)	59.96 (14/11/66)
46	Coppers (4)	400.06	+0.6	25.37	11.99	3.94	3.94	396.95	386.95	389.40	390.53	429.90	567.78 (13/7)	350.66 (5/9)	567.78 (13/7/73)	94.08 (29/4/62)
47	Mining Finance (11)	95.90	+0.3	7.02	3.16	15.87	15.24	95.56	95.77	98.90	99.65	109.29	127.69 (26/7)	95.56 (15/11)	175.90 (28/4/69)	70.93 (2/11/71)
48	Tins (8)	93.48	−0.1	7.86	6.85	17.15	13.45	93.60	94.34	94.73	94.58	98.51	128.34 (12/1)	[illegible] (12/9)	128.34 (12/1/73)	64.85 (27/5/71)

	FIXED INTEREST	Friday, Nov. 16 Index No.	Friday, Nov. 16 Yield %	Wed., Nov. 15	Wed. Nov. 14	Tuesday Nov. 13	Monday Nov. 12	Friday Nov. 9	Thursday Nov. 8	Wed. Nov. 7	Year ago (approx.)	1973 High	1973 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1	Consols 2½% yield	—	12.07	12.14	12.21	*12.05	11.50	11.42	11.42	11.48	9.59	—	—	—	—
2	20-yr. Govt. Stocks (6)	59.35	‡11.06	59.24	58.97	59.56	61.97	62.59	62.41	62.12	78.25	74.22 (25/1)	58.97 (14/11)	115.42 (11/8/63)	58.97 (14/11/73)
3	20-yr. Red. Deb. & Loans (15)	58.04	‡12.79	57.89	57.95	58.57	61.06	61.24	61.33	61.24	71.95	72.06 (22/8)	57.89 (15/11)	113.43 (23/10/63)	57.89 (15/11/73)
4	Investment Trusts Prefs. (15)	49.66	13.34	49.66	49.98	50.64	55.09	55.13	55.13	55.13	72.32	69.76 (15/1)	49.66 (15/11)	114.41 (13/9/63)	49.66 (15/11/73)
5	Coml. and Indl. Prefs. (20)	64.00	13.19	64.32	64.62	65.58	69.02	69.11	69.19	69.35	78.59	77.33 (3/1)	64.00 (16/11)	114.41 (7/10/63)	64.00 (16/11/73)

Section or Group	Base Date	Base Value	Section or Group	Base Date	Base Value
Engineering (Heavy)	31/12/71	153.84	Industrial Group	31/12/70	128.20
Engineering (General)	31/12/71	153.84	Miscellaneous Financial	31/12/70	128.06
Food Manufacturing	[illegible]	[illegible]	All Others	[illegible]	[illegible]
Food Retailing	[illegible]	[illegible]			
Insurance Brokers	[illegible]	[illegible]			
Mining Finance	[illegible]	[illegible]			
Wines and Spirits	[illegible]	[illegible]			
Toys and Games	[illegible]	[illegible]			
Office Equipment	[illegible]	[illegible]			

‡ Redemption yield. F.T.-Actuaries indices are calculated [illegible]. A list of the constituents of the F.T.-Actuaries Share Indices is now available from the Publishers, the Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY, price 13p. By inland post 16p. Commonwealth 18p. Foreign 22p. CONSTITUENT CHANGE: [illegible]

INSURANCE, PROPERTY, BONDS

[illegible]

F.T. SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

BRITISH FUNDS

1973 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)						
98¾	94¹¹⁄₁₆	Conv 5¼pc 1974	96½xd	+½	5.44	11.89
98⅛	94⅛	Treasury 5½pc 1974	95½	+½	5.77	11.76
99⅞	94⅛	Treasury 6¾pc 1974	95¼xd	+⅜	7.09	11.67
97²¹⁄₃₂	92¼	Treasury 6pc 1975	93½	+¼	6.43	12.00
99¹⁵⁄₁₆	93½	Treas 8pc '75	94½xd	−⅜	8.47	12.18
92⅝	88⅜	Savings 3pc '65-75	89⅞	+⅛	3.34	9.39
95	88	Exch.6½pc 1976	88⅝	+⅛	7.34	12.37
95¼	86	Treasury 6½pc 1976	86⅝	+¼	7.51	12.38
98½	95	Victory 4pc 1976	95	......	4.20	12.37
98⅛	94	Treasury 10½pc 1976●	95⅞	+¼	11.11	12.46
91⅞	83½	Treasury 6¾pc 1977	84⅝	+¼	7.43	12.22
87	82¾	Electric 3pc '74-77	83½	+⅜	3.58	8.84
85¼	79	Transport 4pc '72-77	79½xd	+⅜	5.03	10.28
101⅛	88⅞	Treasury 9pc 1978	88⅞	+⅜	10.14	12.41
86⅞	77¼	Exchequer 5pc '76-78	78¼	+⅛	6.39	10.87
Five to Fifteen Years						
75½	68½	Treasury 3pc 1979●	68⅝	+⅛	4.41	10.43
81⅝	71⅞	Electric 4¼pc '74-79	73	+¼	5.88	10.72
77⅝	68¾	Do. 3½pc '76-79	69	+¼	5.08	10.64
100⅜	88	Treasury 9pc 1980●	88¼	+¼	10.43	12.16
75⅞	67¼	Treasury 3½pc '77-80	67½xd	+¼	5.17	10.46
83¼	72	Funding 5¼pc '78-80	72¼xd	+½	7.23	11.27
75¾	65¾	Treasury 3½% '79-81	66	+¼	5.38	10.50
97¾	85	Do 8¾pc '80-82	85½	+½	10.31	11.94
80⅝	70	Funding 5½pc '82-84	70¼	+¼	8.06	10.67
95½	82¼	Treasury 8½pc '84-86	82½	−¼	10.71	11.64
81⅝	67	Funding 6½pc '85-87	67¼	+¼	9.72	11.35
87¼	74½	Treasury 7¾pc '85-88	74½	+¼	10.73	11.81
54⅞	46	Transport 3pc '78-88	46½	+½	6.68	10.41
Over Fifteen Years						
68⅛	55	Treasury 5pc '86-89	55½	+½	9.12	11.10
90⅞	73¼	Treasury 8¼pc '87-90	73⅝	+½	11.12	11.84
72⅛	53½	Funding 5¾pc '87-91	58⅛	+½	9.89	11.30
72¾	58¼	Funding 6pc 1993	58⅝	+½	10.43	11.46
95½	77½	Treasury 9pc '94	78	+½	11.55	11.87
47⅛	37½	Gas 3pc '90-95	37¼	......	7.98	10.24
96¾	78½	Treasury 9pc '92-96	79	+½	11.63	11.91
52	42¾	Redp. 3pc '86-96	42½	......	7.12	9.02
94½	76¼	Treasury 8¾pc 1997	76¾	+½	11.72	11.95
75¼	59¾	Treasury 6¾pc '95-98	60⅜	+¼	11.26	11.76
98⅛	83¼	Treasury 9½pc 1999●	83⅝	+⅛	11.83	11.98
45¼	35¾	Funding 3½pc '99-04	36⅛	+⅛	10.04	10.85
85¼	68¼	Treasury 8pc '02-06	68⅞	+¼	11.82	11.91
61⅛	48¼	Treasury 5½pc '08-12	48¾	+½	11.55	11.63
79⅞	66¾	Treasury 7¾pc '12-15	67⅝	+¼	11.95	11.98
Undated						
40⅝	34	Consols 4pc	34¼	+½	12.10	—
36¾	29	War Loan 3½pc	29¼xd	+½	11.92	—
37	29¼	Conv. 3½pc '61 Aft.	29½	+½	12.05	—
31½	24¾	Treasury 3pc '66 Aft.	25	+⅛	12.18	—
25¾	20¾	Consols 2½pc	21	+½	12.08	—
26½	20¾	Treasury 2½pc	21	+½	12.10	—

●"Tap" Stocks

INTERNATIONAL BANK

1973 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
103	90	3½pc Stock '69-74	92½	......	3.78	12.34
81	63½	5pc Stock '77-82	64	......	7.83	11.96
99¼	89½	8pc Stock 1976	90	......	8.89	12.40

CORPORATION LOANS

1973 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
91	86½	Belfast 6pc '73-75	86½	......	6.92	14.48
91	78½	Bristol 6½pc '75-77	79½	+1	8.18	12.75
86⅛	76¼	Essex 5½pc '75-77	76¼	......	7.13	12.54
93¼	82½	G.L.C. 6¾pc 1976	83½	+1	8.03	12.61
93¼	80	Do 7¼pc 1977	80½	+½	8.92	12.55
79¼	66½	Herts. 5½pc '78-80	66½xd	......	7.82	12.97
91⅞	85½	Liverpool 5½pc '71-75	85¾	+¼	6.39	12.76
104½	87	Do. 9¾pc '80-84	87xd	+½	11.07	11.92
34¾	27½	Do. 3½pc Irred.	27½	......	12.86	—
90¼	75	Lon. Corp. 6½pc '75-78	75	......	8.55	12.26
88¼	75	L.C.C. 6pc '75-78	75	......	7.93	12.26
80½	66¼	Do 5½pc '77-81	66½	+¼	8.30	12.48
74½	59½	Do 5pc '80-83	60xd	+½	8.31	12.40
74½	60¼	Do 5½pc '82-84	62½	......	9.00	12.15
70¼	56	Do 5½pc '85-87	56xd	......	9.66	12.10
76½	62⅝	Do 6¾pc '88-90	64	+¼	10.83	12.13
30⅛	23½	Do. 3pc '20 Aft.	25½	......	12.61	—
91⅜	84½	Manch. 5¼pc. '74-75	84½	......	6.19	12.92
88¼	76½	Middx. 6¼pc '75-77	77	+½	8.06	12.52
81	68	Do 5¼pc 1980	68	......	7.73	12.98
91½	83¼	Newcastle 6pc '73-76	84	+½	7.12	12.80
92¼	85½	West Rid'g 5¾pc 1975	86	+½	6.68	12.71

COMMONWEALTH & AFRICAN LOANS

1973 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
90⅛	86¼	Aust. 2½pc '70-75	87¾xd	+½	2.85	12.21
92⅛	83½	Do. 6pc '74-76	83¾	+¼	7.17	13.04
82⅝	72½	Do. 5½pc '77-80	72½	......	7.78	12.52
78⅜	65½	Do. 5½pc '81-82	65½	......	8.43	12.33
91⅛	86¼	Ceylon 4pc '73-75	88½	−¼	4.55	14.25
74⅝	61½	East Afr. 5¾pc '77-83	61½	......	9.52	13.38
92½	80	Jamaica 7pc '76-78	80	......	8.85	13.13
73¼	62	Kenya 5pc '78-82	62	......	8.15	12.82
77¼	67¼	N.Z. 4pc 1976-78	68¼xd	+¼	5.80	12.55
85¼	73¼	Do. 6pc '76-80	73½	......	8.25	12.47
78¾	69¼	Nth. Rhd. 6pc '78-81	72¼	......	8.51	12.35
76¾	67¼	Nyasa 6pc '78-81	70	......	8.79	12.96
90⅝	84½	Sth. Afr. 5½% '74-76	84½	....	6.65	13.60
103⅛	88	Do. 9½% '79-81	88xd	......	10.78	11.93
53	26	Sth. Rhod. 2½pc '65-70	28	......	—	—
48	20	Do. 4½pc '87-92	23	......	—	—
64	31	Do. 6pc '78-81	32	......	—	—
75¾	63¼	Tang'ka 5½pc '78-82	63¼	......	9.15	13.45

PUBLIC BOARD AND OTHER LOANS

1973 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
62	53	Agric. Mt. 5pc '59-89	53	......	9.69	12.02
101½	80½	Alcan 10½pc '89-94	80½xd	......	12.85	12.93
60¾	46	A.P.C. 5½pc Db. '84-90	47	......	11.47	12.58
77	61	Do. 7pc Db. '88-93	61	......	11.76	12.47
94¾	75½	Do. 9pc Db. '92-97	75½	......	12.20	12.47
103½	83½	Do. 10¼pc Db. '94-99	83½xd	......	12.30	12.40
78½	64	Cope Alman. 7½pc '71-90	65	−½	11.72	11.68
90½	73	I.C.F.C. 8¾pc Ln.	74	......	12.30	12.55
100	91½	Do. 9pc 1977	91½	......	10.26	12.90
102	94½	Do. 9½pc 1975	96	......	10.27	13.45
102½	94	Do. 10pc 'B' 1974	95xd	+1	10.53	16.43
103	91½	Do. 10pc 'C' 1976	91½xd	......	10.93	13.35
35¼	27½	Met. Water 3pc 'B'	28	+½	10.70	11.96
102½	81	U.S.M.C. 9pc 1982	81xd	......	10.97	12.28
94¼	79	Do. without Wrnts.	79xd	......	11.22	12.80
88¾	79¼	Ultramar 7pc '75-78	79½	......	8.83	12.72

FOREIGN BONDS AND RAILS

1973 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Gross Div.	Red. Yield
15	10¼	Antofagasta Rly.	14½	......	—	—
30	25	Do 5pc	29	......	B—	—
99½	95	Berlin 4½pc Ass.	95	......	4½	6.85
84	74	Chilean Mixed	84	......	3	2.21
99	96	Cologne 4½pc	99	......	4½	5.81
197	192	German Young 4½pc	194	......	9.13	—
62	56	Greek 7pc Ass.	59	......	R3½	f4.42
53	47	6pc '28 Stab. Ass.	49	......	R3	f4.23
32	28	4pc Mixed Ass.	28	......	f4.68	f5.58
40	28	Guay Quilo 5pc A	40	......	£6.95	f2.02
31½	28½	Hung. '24 Ass.	28½	......	2.75	f16.60
74	58	Iceland 6½pc '83-88	65	......	6½	11.30
87¾	74	Ireland 7¼pc '81-83	74	......	11.05	10.36
101¼	80½	Do 9¾pc '91-96	80½	−½	9¾	12.66
104	85	Japan 4pc '10 Ass.	103	......	11.92	3.23
78	63	Do 6pc '83-88	64	......	6	10.53
81	73	Peru Ass. 3pc	80	......	5.2	5.7
20	14	Rumanian 4pc C's	18½	......	—	—
119p	97p	S.G.I. With Wrnts.	97p	......	6½	6.56
53	48	Spanish 4pc	50	......	4	7.66
$108	$100	Turin 9pc 1991	$101½	......	9	9.01
Dm88¼	Dm87½	Turin 6½pc 1984	Dm87½	......	6½	5.83
70	55	Uruguay 3½pc	70	......	3½	5.25

U.S. $ DM Prices exclude inv. $ premium

AMERICANS

1973 High	Low	Stock	£	+ or −	Gross Div.	Cvr	Y'ld
24½	10½	ASA	20⅞	−¼	50c	—	1.0
$107	71p	AMF 5% Conv. '87	71p	......	5%	—	7.0
17⅝	11	Assd. Spring $6⅔	12¾	......	$1.20	—	3.8
26	14⅜	Bendix Corp. $5	14⅜	−1⅛	$1.60	—	4.4
17¼	11¾	Beth. Steel $8	15⅞	−½	$$1.40	—	3.6
129	93	Burroughs Corp.	126½	+1	80c	†—	0.3
17½	12¾	C.P.C. $½	15¼	......	$1.77	†—	4.7
13	842p	Carrier Crp. $2½	10½xd	......	52c	—	1.9
39½	24⅜	Caterpillar	32⅝	−2⅛	$1.60	—	2.0
39⅞	18¼	Chase M'htn. $12.5	29⅛	−¼	$2	—	2.8
46⅝	30⅞	Chesebrough $1	37½	−⅜	$1.12	†—	1.2
22⅛	948p	Chrysler 6¼	10	+½	$1.40	—	5.7
830p	463p	City Inv. $1.25	600p	−2	60c	†—	4.1
15⅛	10⅞	Do Cm. Prf B $1	12½	......	$2	—	6.5
18⅞	11⅝	Colgate-P. $1	16⅝	+⅜	54c	—	1.3
25	12½	Cont. Oil $5	25	+⅛	$1.60	—	2.6
22½	10¾	Crown Zell.	17⅜	......	$1.60	—	3.7
31¼	13½	Cummins Eng. $2½	18⅜	+⅜	86c	—	1.9
21	13⅝	Eaton Crp. $0.50	15¾	−¼	$1.80	—	4.8
51⅜	39½	Exxon $7	50	......	$3.95	†—	3.2
13⅝	836p	Firestone Tyre $1	850p	−4	86c	†—	4.1
39⅞	22½	1st Chicago $10	38	−¼	$1.62	—	1.7
26⅛	15¼	1st Nt. Ct. Cp. $4	25	+⅜	72c	—	1.2
29⅝	12⅜	Fluor Corp.	23⅛	+1⅛	δ—	—	—
41⅞	23½	Ford Motor $2½	23½	−½	s$3.20	†—	5.6
33¼	22½	Gillette $1	22½	−⅜	$1.50	—	2.8
72½	43⅝	Honeywell $1.50	46¾	−1¾	$1.40	—	1.2
950p	325p	Hutton (E.F.)	465p	......	40c	—	3.5
167½	122	I.B.M. Corp. $5	149	−2	$5.60	—	1.5
45⅛	24⅝	Ingersoll-R $2	42¾	−⅜	$2.16	—	2.0
835p	530p	Int. Hldgs. Cp. $1	680p	+5	s32c	—	1.9
14⅞	10⅛	I.U. International	12¼	......	75c	—	2.5
[illegible]	612½p	Kaiser Al. $⅓	915p	......	50c	—	2.2
710p	390p	Lesco Corp. $0.25	610p	......	†40c	—	2.7
22½	12¼	Manf. Han. US$7.50	19⅝	−¼	$1.56	—	3.3
49½	37⅞	Merck	47⅛	+⅛	$1.18	—	1.0
£17	560p	Mer'l. Lynch $1.33⅓	815p	−5	56c	†—	0.0
37	22½	Morgan (J.P.) US$2.5	34	−½	$1.46	—	1.7
22⅛	13¼	Owens-Ill. $3.125	20¼	−¼	$1.48	—	2.9
263	77p	Penn-Central	190p	−48	—	—	—
27¼	19⅝	Pfizer $0.11⅓	24	+¼	s64c	—	1.1
20¼	13¾	Quaker Oats US$5	17⅝	−⅛	76c	—	1.7
25⅝	13⅝	Rep. Nt. Bk. N.Y. $5	15⅜	......	—	—	—
14¾	875p	Rexnord $5	967p	......	$1.04	—	4.4
32⅞	20½	Shell Oil $1	32	+¼	$2.40	—	3.1
30¾	21⅞	Singer ($10)	24½	−½	$2.40	—	4.0
28⅝	15¼	Sperry Rand $0.50	25⅛	+½	66c	—	1.1
55	42⅞	Squibb $1	49¾	−⅜	$1.56	—	1.3
25½	11⅛	Tesoro Pt. US$0.33⅓	25	−¼	—	—	—
21⅝	14½	Texaco $6.25	16⅜	......	$1.72	†—	4.3
725p	485p	Transamerica	525p	−15	59c	—	4.6
18⅞	13	U.S. Steel $30	17⅛	+¼	$1.60	—	3.6
12¼	890p	Universal Oil $1	10	−¼	—	—	—
16⅝	877p	Woolworths $3½	10½	−⅛	$1.20	—	4.7
84¼	62¼	Xerox Corp. $1	75¾	+2¼	88c	—	0.4

S.E. List Premium 26% (based on $2.3852 per £)

CANADIANS

1973 High	Low	Stock	£	+ or −	Gross Div.	Cvr	Y'ld
260p	20p	Aquablast	32p	−3	—	—	—
11⅝	750p	Bk. Montreal $2	10⅜	+⅛	96c	†—	3.7
20⅞	13⅝	Bk. Nova Scot. $2	20⅞	+⅛	$1.08	†—	2.2
24½	11	Bow Valley‖	17¼	+½	10c	—	0.3
10⅝	315p	Brascan‖	10⅛	+¼	$1.08	—	4.0
133	32½p	Cabot Expl.	74p	−4	—	—	—
16⅞	12⅞	Can. Imp. Bk. $2	15¼	+⅛	$1.00	†—	2.6
865p	710p	Can. Pacific $5	840p	+10	74c	—	3.6
39½	31¼	Do. 4pc Deb. £100	31¼xd	......	4%	—	12.8
200p	90p	Comm. Hldg. Met.	95p	......	—	—	—
21½	13¼	Gulf Oil Can.‖	17⅝	+⅛	70c	—	1.6
300p	170p	Hawker Sid. Can.‖	270p	+5	8c	—	—
25¼	18¼	Hollinger $5	24⅛	......	$1.60	—	2.7
10⅞	790p	Hudson's Bay	10⅜	+⅛	56c	—	2.2
30	17⅜	Hud. B. Oil G. $2½	23¼	+¼	70c	—	1.2
26	15½	Imperial Oil‖	23½	+¼	60c	†—	1.0
685p	430p	Int. Nat. Gas $1	500p	+10	72c	†—	5.8
19½	11⅞	Int. Nickel	17¼	−¼	$1.0	—	2.3
13⅝	735p	Massey Ferg.‖	11⅛	−¼	80c	—	2.4
22⅛	11⅛	Pacific Pet. $1	17½	+½	50c	—	1.2
11	510p	Peoples Dept.‖	555p	−10	10c	—	0.7
42p	22p	Place Gas $1	30½p	−½	—	—	—
18⅝	950p	Rio Algom	17	+⅜	40c	—	1.0
21⅞	14⅞	Royal Bk. Can. $2	19⅞	+½	$1.04	†—	2.1
22	13½	Tor. Dom. Bk. $2	19⅛	+½	$1.04	†—	2.2
23¼	13½	Trs. Can. Pipe $1	18	+¼	$1	—	2.2
700p	525p	White Pass	540p	......	35c	—	2.6

S.E. List Premium 26% (based on $2.3834 per £)

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For Notes, see page 29

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DRAPERY AND STORES—Continued

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ENGINEERING AND METAL—Cont.

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

HOTELS—Continued

INDUSTRIALS—(Miscell.)

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RUBBERS AND SISAL

1973 High	1973 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Net Div.	Cvr	Y'ld pc
42	30	Anglo-Indo'n'sn	34½	......	—	—	—
50	29	Bertam Con. 10p	40	......	12.9	0.9	4.6
84	52	Bradwall 10p	77	......	14.7	0.8	2.7
58	25	Bukit Mert. 10p	58xd	+2	Q12½	♦	2.2
114	78	Castlefield 10p	97	......	Q15	1.5	1.5
85	66	Chersonese 10p	75	......	28	0.7	5.3
77½	43	Cons. Plants 10p	50	−1	15.2	♦	3.7
29	20	Dwa. Plant 10p	26	......	♦B	—	—
45½	17	Gadek 10p	44	......	8¼	0.8	2.8
87	59½	Goldn Hope 10p	62½	−1	25.7	1.0	5.7
7½	4¼	Grand Central 10p	5	−¼	Q25	—	14.3
445	342	Guthrie Corp £1	370	......	12.9	1.3	5.0
129	82	Highlands 10p	103	−2	†25.7	0.5	3.6
46	21	Kuala Kepong M$1	43	......	Qb6¼	1.8	1.5
41	28	Kulim 10p	30½	−½	11.9	0.8	5.6
60½	41	Ldn. Asiatic 10p	43	......	†17.5	1.2	5.8
50	30½	Ldn. S'm'tra 10p	32	......	10.3	1.5	4.6
81	36	Malakoff 10p	67	......	Q12½	1.9	1.9
23	14	Malayalam 10p	14	−½	10½	0.7	10.7
64	36	Muar River 10p	62	......	11	1.4	2.5
56	37	*Pataling 10p*	39½	......	†b16.3	1.1	5.0
67	44	Plantat'n Hgs. 10p	55½	......	†21	1.4	3.8
£11½	675	Sungie Krian £1	925	−35	Q40	1.1	4.3
34	17½	Taiping 10p	32	......	Q08	1.6	2.5
68	24½	Warren Rub. 10p	63#	......	Q25	0.7	0.8

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

1973 High	1973 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Net Div.	Cvr	Y'ld pc
52	44	Assam & Afr. £1	45	......	Q4	1.7	8.9
100	76	Assam Dooars £1	76	......	Q7½	2.3	♦
110	64	Assam Fron'r £1	67	......	Q8	U1.8	11.9
108	76	British Indian £1	78	−2	Q6	1.5	7.7
220	39	Cessnock £1	220	+5	♦	—	—
238	170	Cons. Tea & Land £1	210	......	♦0.7	—	0.5
145	78	Darj'ling Co. £1	80	......	3.5	0.9	6.2
98	68	Jokai £1	71	+1	Q8	1.1	11.3
160	100	Jorehaut £1	139	......	3½	1.2	3.6
134	89	Longbourne £1	89	+1	†2.1	—	3.4
148	90	McLeod Russel £1	138	......	♦3½	1.4	3.7
88	69	Moran £1	80	......	2.9	—	5.2
430	232	Teith Hldgs. £1	420	......	♦5¼	2.8	1.8
112	60	Warren £1	110	−2	Q6	1.6	5.5
93	64	Williamson £1	66	−1	4.2	2.1	9.1

Sri Lanka

1973 High	1973 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Net Div.	Cvr	Y'ld pc
16	9½	Central Prov.	15	......	1¼	—	2.9
69½	46	Clairmare 10p	50	+2	v35	T1.7	10.0
155	126	Crosby House £1	126	−2	Q10½	0.9	8.4
76	50	Lanuva £1	50	......	2.9	Q1.1	8.4
32	23	Nuwara Eliya £1	27	......	—	—	—
65	33	Ouvah High £1	36	......	1.5	3.6	5.8
190	128	Pelmadulla £1	130#	......	7.8	1.1	8.6
34	23	Rajaw'la Hg. 50p	24#	......	♦B	—	—
46	21	Tea Corporation	29	......	—	—	—

Africa

1973 High	1973 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Net Div.	Cvr	Y'ld pc
130	55	Bandanga Hldg.	118	......	b10.5	2.4	3.2
250	220	Blantyre £1	220	−5	14	1.5	9.1
43	34	Peacock Sas. 10p	40	......	Q32½	1.8	8.1
84	65	Ruo Estates	65xd	......	Q22½	1.5	8.7

MINES—CENTRAL RAND

1973 High	1973 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Net Div.	Cvr	Y'ld pc
840	205	Durban Deep R1	480	......	Q†30c	2.3	3.9
590	160	E. Rand Prp. R1	350	+15	Q†15c	4.5	2.6
44	16	Rand Leases 2½c	28	......	—	—	—
£10¼	270	Randf'tn Est. R2	675	......	—	—	—
210	45	West Rand R1	115	+5	Q†8c	—	4.3

EASTERN RAND

1973 High	1973 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Net Div.	Cvr	Y'ld pc
182	84	Bracken R1	125	+7	Q31c	♦	15.2
11	7	Daggafontein 50c	8	......	—	—	—
70	30	East Dag R1	42	......	Q†45c	1.1	—
22	11	G'vaml. Areas 2½c	16	......	—	—	—
138	45	Grootvlei 30c	98	......	Q†13c	1.0	8.2
375	190	Kinross R1	215	+3	Q46c	♦	13.2
97	36	Leslie 90c	53	+4	Q8.1c	♦	9.4
225	88	Marievale	190	+5	Q†30c	1.5	9.7
260	94	S. African Ld. 35c	182	+7	Q220c	—	6.7
120	52	Vlakfontein R1	92	+2	U22c	1.0	14.7
610	286	Winkelhaak R1	430	+5	Q48c	♦	6.9
39	11	Wit. Nigel 25c	18	−1	Q1¼c	♦	4.3

FAR WEST RAND

1973 High	1973 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Net Div.	Cvr	Y'ld pc
415	205	Blyvoor 25	390	+10	Q35c	1.7	4.8
£12½	415	Buffels R1	960	+20	Q75c	1.9	4.8
705	285	Doornfontein R1	540	+10	Q49c	1.9	5.2
600	245	East Drie R1	345	+15	—	—	—
470	240	*Do. Comb. Units*	310	......	—	—	—
245	102	Elsburg R1	158	+3	—	—	—
£14½	545	Hartebeest R1	£11	+½	Q100c	1.5	5.6
810	365	Kloof Gold R1	640	+10	Q45c	2.7	4.1
690	350	Do. Comb. Units	620	+10	—	—	—
725	355	Libanon R1	520	+5	Q57c	1.6	6.3
515	204	Southvaal R0.5	330	+3	—	—	—
300	101	Stilfontein 50c	230	+10	Qu17½c	1.6	4.7
£14¾	710	Vaal Reefs 50c	£11⅞	+¼	Q†55c	3.3	2.9
340	100	Venterspost R1	200	+5	Q37c	1.8	10.7
£19¾	£11¼	W. Drie R1	£17¾	+¼	Q210c	1.3	6.8
280	113	W'st'rn Areas R1	190	+8	Q†16c	2.9	5.3
£10	505	Western Deep R2	800	+20	Q†80c	1.8	6.1
220	82	Zandpan R1	160	+7	Q16.3c	—	6.3

[illegible]

THE LEX COLUMN

Index rose 5.5 to 402.6

The price Transatlantic bidders pay

A bear argument understood is a bear argument discounted, and the one thing that nobody understands at the moment is the oil supply situation. So long as that remains true, the market will remain vulnerable to the sort of violent emotional swings evident on Thursday and late Friday this week. All that can be said for the moment is that the worst time to sell shares over the past six months has been when the Index has made a new low, as it did this week: In the past a sharp sell-off has been the prelude to a rally which at any rate has provided a better selling opportunity.

Takeover prices

With the Transatlantic takeover trade in full swing, yesterday provided the opportunity to examine one bid from the U.S., and to re-examine one from Canada. This is a useful conjunction, since in bid number one—RCA for Oriel Foods—there is a hefty premium on the pre-bid price; in the other, Moore/Lamson, the latter has been under attack for (a) not insisting on a full scale offer and (b) not getting a high enough price for the 40 per cent. partial offer which it has agreed to recommend.

The market patted itself on the back for its prescience yesterday, and added a mere 1p to Oriel—making it 191p—on the 205p a share cash bid from RCA. But then there were plenty of profits to take; Oriel was 123p ahead of the original talks announcement in September. The offer capitalises Oriel at £10.9m., a fat multiple for reported 1972-73 profits of £½m. before tax; but summer acquisitions in wholesale grocery and cash and carry had already taken pro-forma profits for that year over £800,000, and with turnover currently running at around £55m. on an annual basis, the profit rate ought to be something over the £1m. mark.

Taking in some nice cash and carry sites at actual asset value, Oriel's net worth might be close to the £4m. mark. It might also, without the RCA negotiations in the way, have made at least one more major acquisition since September. But what RCA is paying for, in addition, is a particular style of management; and that provides the link to what, in the Moore/Lamson dickering, Moore was prepared to pay and Lamson to accept.

The debate here was between opportunity cost and the competitive threat. Moore (and many others) sees Europe as the next major growth area for computers, with EEC growth rates forecast at 16 per cent. compound over the next six years. It has to get in, but it did not necessarily have to come in via Lamson which, due to unfortunate diversifications rather than the basic business forms operation, has had a disappointing record over the past ten years. The alternative, seen from Lamson's point of view, might have been the introduction of grass roots competition, from what is regarded as one of the best managements in the world; and if Moore had been in competition with Lamson, it might then want to get rid of the 20 per cent. of the Lamson stock it owned already. What opposition there is to a price of 100p, for a p/e of just over 16 on the outgoing stock, will probably admit that Moore made the best of its negotiating advantages; all the better for the remaining 48 per cent. at 87p last night.

Wedgwood

Wedgwood's first half has followed very much the pattern of last year's second six months, with sales up just over a fifth and pre-tax profits more than doubled to £1.64m. But from now on progress will be rather harder to achieve, and indeed sales have advanced very little between the last two successive halves, while profits and margins have eased back. At least demand remains very buoyant in all world markets, particularly in the U.K. and in the North American and Australian markets which take the bulk of exports (two-thirds of sales). But a labour-intensive group like Wedgwood inevitably finds it hard to push up output fast when the labour market is tight, and growth in volume for the year may be limited to 5-10 per cent. Logically, Wedgwood is putting the emphasis on its plans for higher export prices.

The effect of yen revaluations on Japanese competition is obviously relevant here (though the yen is now weakening again) and the recent strength of the dollar amounts to a step in the right direction for Wedgwood. The trend of sales should be roughly maintained for the full year, pointing to pre-tax profits of around £3.75m. (against £2.58m.) and a prospective p/e of just under 10 at 153p. That looks undemanding, but in the absence of any scope for improvement in U.K. margins the group's prospects essentially depend on the relationship of U.K. costs to U.S. selling prices, and it is hard to get very enthusiastic on that score.

GRE/Metropolitan

Discreet murmurings among Guardian Royal Exchange shareholders against the proposed bid for Metropolitan Trust may have less to do with any change in the market background than with the job protection instinct among the investment trust community, or the possibility that some shareholders are also underwriting the offer. That may prove a costly exercise, since GRE is being underwritten at 200p, against 228p before the news and 190p now: the underwritten offer is worth 182p per share against 173p for the share exchange.

Since the bid will add a quarter to GRE's equity, everyone must be hoping for a market rally. But always assuming that GRE—with its relatively strong solvency margin – at market values—needed to broaden its equity base in the first place, shareholders' attitudes will not be changed by the recent market declines. Metropolitan's net worth must still be around 170p per share, and this move is certainly preferable to a rights issue.

Weather

U.K. TO-DAY

COLD, with frost at night. Snow in the North-East, mainly dry in the West.

London, S.E. England, E. Anglia, E. Midlands
Bright intervals, wintry showers at first. Wind N., fresh. Max. 5C (41F).

S., S.W. and Cent. S. England, W. Midlands, Channel Is., S. Wales
Mainly dry, sunny spells. Wind N.E. to S.E., light to moderate. Max. 6C (43F).

E., N.E. and Cent. N. England, Borders, Edinburgh and E. Scotland, Aberdeen, Cent. Highlands, Moray Firth, Caithness, Orkney, Shetland
Bright intervals, snow showers at first. Wind N.W. to variable, fresh to light. Max. 4C (39F).

N. Wales, N.W. England, Lakes, I. of Man, S.W. and N.W. Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N. Ireland
Bright intervals, early snow showers. Wind W. to S.E., light to moderate. Max. 5C (41F).

Outlook: Rain at times.

Lighting-up: London 16.39, Manchester 16.40, Glasgow 16.38, Belfast 16.50.

BUSINESS CENTRES

		Y'day Mid-day °C	°F			Y'day Mid-day °C	°F
Alexandria	F	25	77	Luxmbrg.	R	7	45
Amstrdm.	F	9	48	Madrid	S	12	54
Athens	S	20	68	Manchstr.	F	8	46
Bahrain	S	24	75	Melbourne	S	18	64
Beirut	F	22	72	Milan	S	19	[illegible]
Belfast	F	3	37	Montreal	C	−2	28
Belgrade	C	7	45	Moscow	S	−3	[illegible]
Berlin	C	7	45	Munich	R	5	41
Birmghm.	C	7	45	Newcastle	S	5	41
Bristol	F	9	48	New York	C	16	[illegible]
Brussels	C	8	46	Oslo	C	0	32
Budapest	F	8	46	Paris	C	12	[illegible]
B. Aires	S	23	74	Perth	S	27	81
Cairo	S	26	79	Prague	F	6	43
Cardiff	F	8	46	Reykjavik	Sn	−9	15
Cologne	F	7	45	Rome	F	18	64
Copnhagn.	F	3	37	Singapore	C	29	84
Dublin	S	6	43	Stockholm	C	2	36
Edinb'rgh	S	4	39	Strasbourg	C	14	57
Frankfurt	C	5	41	Sydney	S	25	77
Geneva	F	14	57	Tehran	C	20	[illegible]
Glasgow	S	6	43	Tel Aviv	S	22	72
Helsinki	F	−4	25	Tokyo	C	18	[illegible]
H. Kong	S	25	77	Toronto	C	−2	28
Jo'burg	C	21	70	Vienna	F	8	46
Lisbon	C	13	55	Warsaw	C	2	36
London	F	10	50	Zurich	C	11	52

HOLIDAY RESORTS

		Y'day Mid-day °C	°F			Y'day Mid-day °C	°F
Ajaccio	S	18	64	Istanbul	C	13	[illegible]
Algiers	S	21	70	Jersey	C	13	55
Barcelona	S	16	61	Las Plms.	F	22	72
Biarritz	S	14	57	Locarno	S	16	61
Blackpool	F	7	45	Majorca	S	20	68
Bordeaux	C	13	55	Malaga	S	17	63
Boulogne	C	8	46	Malta	C	18	64
Casablnca.	C	21	70	Nairobi	S	23	73
Cape Tn.	S	28	82	Naples	F	17	63
Corfu	S	20	[illegible]	Nice	S	17	63
Dubrovnik	S	18	64	Nicosia	F	20	68
Faro	F	19	66	Rhodes	F	20	[illegible]
Florence	C	17	63	Salzburg	Sl	1	34
Funchal	F	18	64	Tangier	F	22	72
Gibraltar	F	16	61	Tenerife	C	18	64
Guernsey	R	13	55	Tunis	F	19	66
Innsbruck	C	5	41	Valencia	S	18	64
Inverness	S	1	34	Venice	Fg	7	45
I. of Man	C	5	41				

S—Sunny. F—Fair. C—Cloudy. R—Rain. Sn—Snow. Sl—Sleet. Fg—Fog.

MAN OF THE WEEK

It is his toughest job yet

BY JAMES ENSOR

THE MOTOR industry is a tough, demanding business especially for the men at the top. Mistakes are rarely forgiven, for by the time that they become apparent, millions of pounds or dollars have been committed—and lost.

Terry Beckett who, at the age of 50, has been chosen to replace Sir William Batty as the chief executive of Ford of Britain is well aware of the demands of the job. In the past few years, two of his colleagues, Hans-Adolf Barthelmeh, who was the managing director of Ford Werke in Germany, and Stan Gillen who was the top Ford man in Europe, have retired early. The previous managing director of Vauxhall in Britain, David Hegland, left General Motors at his own request.

Popular

In a company which seems to breed tough, even hard senior executives, Terry Beckett stands out as a kind and charming man. He is much quieter and more relaxed than the stereotyped automobile executive as described in books like Arthur Hailey's "Wheels"—which was, of course, based on Ford men in Detroit.

Becket is evidently a very popular man, indeed a popular and natural choice to head Ford in Britain. His colleagues speak of his willingness to listen to everyone's point of view and to try to persuade them to his line rather than to dictate.

His career since he joined Ford as a graduate trainee in 1950 has been one of almost unbroken success—which he modestly attributes to having been in the right place at the right time. At the remarkably young age of 31 he was given the key job of product planning for Ford, of Britain, which at that stage developed its models relatively independently of the American and German Ford companies.

The three vehicles for which he was responsible, the original Cortina, the D Series Truck and the Transit van, still rank as the three outstanding successes of Ford's product line.

The two commercial vehicles, in particular, have now given Ford market leadership throughout Europe as well as in Britain, helping the company to push up from the fifth or sixth place in which it lay before they were introduced.

Finest hour

Beckett still looks back upon the truck and van developments as his finest hour. Within the company, though, he is best remembered for the Cortina. This car was designed at a time when Ford was under heavy pressure from the BMC Mini which had climbed to the top of the market and cut into Ford sales. Beckett, instead of copying the principles of the Mini with an advanced engineered small car, pointed out that Ford could more profitably attack the middle of the market.

The first Cortina provided a genuine breakthrough in cost, size and performance in the medium car class. A car of strictly conventional engineering and without much embellishment, it nevertheless proved to be exactly what the average British buyer wanted.

Beckett's meticulous costing and budgeting proved their value with the Cortina programme. The car cost some 15s less than target on direct cost (a much bigger achievement than it sounds), saved £100,000 on planned investment and was developed in the record time of 19 months. The Cortina saved Ford of Britain's market share and made a lot of money for the company.

From then on Beckett's career was made. He was promoted to sales director and recently has been in charge of Ford sales in Europe, except for Britain and Germany. In that time, he has welded a team of 15 to 20 nationalities into a coherent force and given Ford market leadership among importers in France and Italy. But as he himself admits, his new job will be the toughest yet.

Oil, power cuts may cost Japan 10% of output

By CHARLES SMITH and PETER DUMINY TOKYO, Nov. 16.

JAPANESE INDUSTRY is to be instructed to reduce its consumption of oil and electricity by 10 per cent. during the remainder of this year as part of a plan for meeting the oil supply crisis, Government officials announced to-day.

It was made clear, however, that the 10 per cent. cut, which is expected to produce at least a corresponding decline in the volume of industrial production, is only a preliminary measure. Heavier cuts may well be imposed after the new year unless the oil situation takes an unexpected turn for the better.

In presenting the Government's plans for oil saving, officials estimated to-day that Japan's total oil imports for the six months from October, 1973 to March, 1974 would be 20 per cent. below "normally expected levels." The reduction in supplies however, will be proportionately greater during what remains of this six-month period, since reductions in October and the first half of November have been marginal.

Moreover, it is admitted that the 20 per cent. reduction estimate could well turn out to be optimistic. The Petroleum Association of Japan (the body representing Japan's refining industry) has estimated the supply cutback at 30 per cent. This is on the assumption that, apart from production cuts in the Middle East, Japan will face a diversion to other markets of some of the crude oil which would normally reach it from Iran and Indonesia.

It is clear that the Government has not yet managed to find ways of reducing oil consumption on anything like the scale of the expected supply cuts. To-day's emergency package, which includes a variety of measures aimed at the public as well as the industrial power cuts, is expected to produce an overall saving in oil consumption of only 5 to 8 per cent.

The balance between this and the shortfall in supplies will be met by drawing down stocks, described to-day as being at a "very meagre level," and by trying to find substitutes for oil. The Government says it hopes to turn oil-burning electric power stations over to coal and to step up the use of hydro-electric power.

In the last resort, however, it is admitted that Japan is not cutting oil consumption by a greater amount for the time being simply because it is not ready to face the consequences of such a cut. Officials say that a cut of more than 10 per cent. in the power consumption of industry would involve consequences for the economy which would be "too grave" to be acceptable. As it is, they expect the reduction—and the corresponding fall in industrial output—to add to Japan's already alarming rate of inflation.

The rise in the wholesale price index is currently running at 20.3 per cent. over the level of a year ago. In addition, several major industries have announced price increases in the past few days which have yet to be reflected in the index. These include Nippon Steel, Japan's largest steel manufacturer, and Nissan Motors, the second-largest motor manufacturer, which has announced an average 6.5 per cent. increase in the price of all its models to take effect immediately.

To-day's package contains a number of measures designed to prevent profiteering or the hoarding of commodities which may be in short supply as a result of the oil crisis. Further measures to "reduce total demand" are promised but it is clear from statements made earlier in the week by Mr. Kiichi Aichi, the Minister of Finance, that the Government has not yet decided what form those should take.

The Minister spoke of the need to evaluate the effects of the oil crisis "soberly" although his colleague, the Minister of International Trade and Industry, had already predicted that the oil crisis would mean "zero growth" for Japan.

Other oil news, Page 13

Jump in Treasury bill rate

By Our Economics Correspondent

THE RATE of interest on Treasury bills rose sharply at yesterday's tender in line with the jump in market rates imposed by the authorities earlier in the week.

As a result, the Bank of England was able to re-activate the normal formula used to calculate its minimum lending rate to the money market. This was abandoned when the crisis measures were announced on Tuesday, and minimum lending rate was independently pushed up from 11¼ per cent. to 13 per cent. with the clearing banks lifting their own base lending rates by 2 per cent. to the same level.

At yesterday's tender, the average rate of discount on Treasury bills was 12.4126 per cent., a rise of 1.7002 per cent. from the previous week. Using the normal formula for working out minimum lending rate (Treasury bill rate plus ½ per cent, rounded up to the nearest ¼ per cent.) this would produce the 13 per cent. rate that the Bank had set.

While technically the formula is now restored, however, it is thought unlikely that the authorities would welcome any reduction in the MLR after next week's tender, or indeed that the money market would change rates to this extent following the very clear lead given by the authorities.

At the same time, it was announced yesterday that lending rates to local authorities at the Public Works Loan Board were being increased sharply by between ¾ per cent. and 2¼ per cent., giving a range of rates between 12 and 13¼ per cent.

Meanwhile, the big banks are considering the action they need to take following the further credit restraints introduced this week. There appears to be some debate over the extent to which it will be necessary to cut back on lending as a result of the further call of special deposits, though all the banks expect to take an even more critical view of new requests for loans in the light of the guidance already given by the Bank of England.

A spokesman for the National Westminster Bank commented: "The whole of our lending position is under consideration at the highest level in the light of Government policy. Meanwhile, we are continuing to be selective in all lending, bearing in mind the essential needs of manufacturing and exports."

'Excellent' start at Chequers

BY PHILIP RAWSTORNE

MR. EDWARD HEATH, the Prime Minister, and President Pompidou of France made "an excellent start" yesterday to their two days of talks at Chequers on EEC issues and the Middle East.

The two leaders, accompanied only by interpreters, ended more than five hours of discussion at 7 o'clock last night in an atmosphere described as "most friendly and businesslike."

President Pompidou was staying overnight at Chequers, and the talks will be resumed this morning.

Much of the discussion yesterday centred on the development of closer political co-operation, especially in foreign policy, within the EEC. Both leaders are convinced of the importance of a united Common Market voice in world affairs, after Europe's failure to wield any significant influence in the Middle East conflict.

While agreeing on the urgent need for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East on the basis of the UN Resolution 242, the two leaders discussed the development of a common European position on the political and economic implications of the situation.

Mr. Heath and President Pompidou, both of whom are in favour of regular twice-yearly meetings of Common Market leaders, also discussed the form that such meetings might take in future, and their role in the movement towards political unity.

The Prime Minister apparently got a good reception for his ideas on turning the summit meetings into a sort of "Euro-Cabinet," which would determine major policy objectives and constantly review progress towards their achievement.

The Chequers agenda to-day is expected to include the question of further progress towards economic and monetary union. President Pompidou was expected to discuss with Mr. Heath his intentions about the gradual running down of sterling balances and the return of the pound to a fixed parity.

Though present economic conditions would appear to preclude any faster progress by the U.K. Government, Mr. Heath has so far steadfastly refused to abandon the 1980 deadline set at the Paris summit.

President Pompidou will return to France to-day, after attending a ceremony at Chequers for the signing of the Channel Tunnel Treaty, and visiting Windsor Castle for tea with the Queen.

● Britain made a compromise offer to France earlier this week in an attempt to reach an agreement on a European policy for uranium enrichment.

At present, Europe is divided into two rival camps, the centrifuge process sponsored by Britain, Germany and Holland, and the gaseous diffusion process sponsored by France with the backing of Belgium, Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

The terms of the most recent British proposal have not been revealed; but it was reported earlier this week that the Brussels Commission would propose the parallel development of both processes.

Picture Page 14

WOOLMARK AT CARPET SHOW

The International Wool Secretariat will feature nearly 700 Woolmark carpet ranges on its stand at the International Trade Fair for home textiles and floor coverings, in Frankfurt (January 9-13).

WEIR PUMPS LAYS OFF 1,600

Weir Pumps, part of the Weir Group of engineering companies, Cathcart, Glasgow, last night laid off their skilled labour force of 1,600 employees following the break-down in talks to find a formula for settling an unofficial pay strike of 370 ancillary workers which started on Wednesday.

Key moves soon in miners' and power engineers' disputes

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, LABOUR EDITOR

KEY MOVES over the next few days will determine the future of the electricity engineers' and miners' pay disputes which so far have had only marginal effects on the country's power supplies and fuel stocks.

Curbs introduced under the Government's State of Emergency are believed so far to have cut electricity demand sufficiently to more or less cancel out the effects of the engineers' ban on out-of-hours working. At the same time, coal stocks are being reduced by the miners' overtime ban.

The series of key meetings starts to-day when the Electrical Power Engineers' Association opens a three-day session of its national executive council in advance of talks next Tuesday with the Electricity Council.

But last night there seemed little hope that these meetings will lead to a break in the engineers' deadlocked pay dispute because the Government, in talks earlier this week, was not prepared to make a special case of the engineers under the Stage Three Pay Code.

In this situation, the industrial action could continue, with increasingly serious effects, into next month. This is because the EPEA does not appear to be prepared to accept in advance suggestions from Government Ministers that it might be awarded special pay treatment in the Pay Board's report on relativities due next month.

On Monday the National Union of Mineworkers holds what is probably the last in its current series of talks with the National Coal Board before a special meeting of its national executive on Wednesday. The NCB yesterday held a special Board meeting to review progress.

The talks are centring around items such as re-arranging the basic 7 per cent. pay offer already made to miners to try to compensate those who will not do well out of Stage Three's special "unsocial hours" payments. Talks are also embracing pension and sick pay levels and a productivity deal.

The aim of those wanting an early settlement is to persuade the NUM executive to order a ballot of the country's 260,000 miners which, it is hoped, would lead to a peaceful settlement of the miners' pay dispute.

Effects of the miners' action on coal production could increase early next week because the miners will not be carrying out their normal maintenance work this week-end. Yesterday a South Wales miners' leader forecast a 50 per cent. cut in his area's coal output next week.

The electricity dispute caused no cuts or reductions in electricity production yesterday although warnings were issued last night that the supply position could be tight this week-end. In Scotland, some 3,000 electricity consumers have had their supplies hit in the past 24 hours.

Christopher Lorenz writes: The Government's curbs on the use of electricity are reducing daytime demand in England and Wales by about 1,000 MW and evening demand by as much as 1,500 MW, according to initial estimates by the electricity supply industry.

The savings—which reduced Thursday's peak demand to just over 36,000 MW—are said to be roughly in line with the amount of generating plant made unavailable every day by the power engineers' two-week-old ban on out-of-hours work. This varies considerably from one shift to another, but is understood to be averaging 1,500 MW.

Meanwhile, the Central Electricity Generating Board's coal stocks have fallen by about 1m. tons in the last six weeks to the latest available figure of 17.25m., equivalent to 10 weeks' supply of coal or 8½ weeks of coal and oil together.

In most years the CEGB has managed to build up its coal stocks until mid- or late-November, but this year it was receiving less than expected from the National Coal Board even before the start this week of the overtime ban. Another depressant on stocks was the recent spell of cold weather, which pushed up coal burning at power stations.

Continued from Page 1

Price rises

pound on imported lamb and 1p a pound on sausage and chickens.

In a speech to Leicestershire farmers last night, Mr. Godber said the increase between September and October was "very far from being the whole story at this time." Higher world prices had already had some effect on bread, biscuits and cakes, but part of the effect had still to pass through the pipeline.

The Minister said that higher world prices were bound to affect food prices indirectly because of dearer animal feedstuffs.

Brighter aspects of the picture were the record grain harvests in the northern hemisphere, including the U.K., and the expansion of Britain's livestock numbers. With an easing in world cereal prices there should eventually be a downturn in retail food prices, he forecast.

In Whitehall, last month's food price rise is looked upon as "exceptional," and the current month's figures are confidently expected to present a far less grim picture. The rise in seasonal foods was bigger than expected (in fact last October saw a 0.1 per cent. decrease in this sector). Overall, the food index was 18.7 per cent. higher than the same month last year and seasonal foods were 36.4 per cent. up.

Since the Government's prices and wages "freeze" was introduced last November food prices have risen by 17.7 per cent. and the rise since the General Election in June 1970 has been 44.8 per cent.

● Mr. Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, urged the Government to take emergency powers to halt the price rises.

Civil servants win pay rises under anomaly conditions

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, LABOUR EDITOR

PAY RISES of up to about £1,000 a year to be paid out by next November have been agreed for 135,000 middle-ranking civil servants who have been dubbed an "anomaly" by the Pay Board and the Government under the Stage Three Pay Code.

They are the first—and the highest-paid—group of some 400,000 civil servants to be given this special treatment to compensate them for pay rises they lost as a result of last winter's pay freeze.

Subject to Pay Board approval, their increases will cost the Government about £46m. a year according to a Civil Service Department announcement last night. They will boost salaries by an average of 9.5 per cent. —with some groups receiving up to 14.3 per cent.

The increases are being paid from November 7—the day the Stage Three Pay Code came into force—but are being split into two equal annual amounts for those now earning over £5,000 a year with the second allocation on November 7 next year.

The civil servants—senior principals and assistant secretaries—who will be receiving the rises totalling some £1,000 are in the top bracket. They will be receiving only half the increase this month, taking their salary range from £5,550-£7,476 to £5,950 to £7,988.

At the lower end of the scale, executive officers will be receiving their full allowance of just over £300 this month, boosting their salary range from £951-£2,288 to £1,270-£2,600.

In their Stage Two settlement the civil servants received increases of about £100 to £200 a year, weighted in favour of the lower-paid.

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